

GAME PREVIEW

Michigan State Spartans

WOMEN'S XC

Anna Peer

NU VOLLEYBALL

Amber Rolfzen

THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO NEBRASKA ATHLETICS

HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED

RED ROCKED

Nebraska manhandles Illinois
in Big Ten Conference opener



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ILLUSTRATED

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The next Huskers Illustrated edition, recapping the Michigan State game and previewing the Northwestern game, will mail on Monday, Oct. 6.

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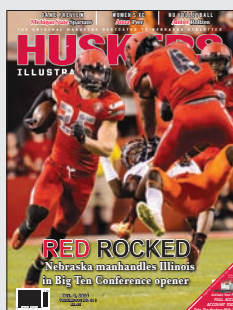
BY LANNY HOLSTEIN & DARREN IVY

Nebraska sophomore wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp improved to 2-0 against his father's alma mater.

2014 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME	TV/SCORE
AUG. 30	FLORIDA ATLANTIC	MEMORIAL STADIUM	2:30P.M.	W, 55-7
SEPT. 6	MCNEESE STATE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	11:00 A.M.	W, 31-24
SEPT. 13	@FRESNO STATE	FRESNO, CALIF.	9:30P.M.	W, 55-19
SEPT. 20	MIAMI	MEMORIAL STADIUM	7:00 P.M.	W, 41-31
SEPT. 27	ILLINOIS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	8:00P.M.	W, 45-14
OCT. 4	@MICHIGAN STATE	EAST LANSING, MICH.	7:00P.M.	ABC
OCT. 18	@NORTHWESTERN	EVANSTON, ILL.	6:30P.M.	BTN
OCT. 25	RUTGERS	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 1	PURDUE	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 15	@WISCONSIN	MADISON, WIS.	TBA	TBD
NOV. 22	MINNESOTA	MEMORIAL STADIUM	TBA	TBD
NOV. 28	@IOWA	IOWA CITY, IA	TBA	TBD
DEC. 6	@BIG TEN TITLE GAME	INDIANAPOLIS, IND.	7P.M.	FOX

ALL GAMES ARE CST



ON THE COVER

Following his second-quarter interception, sophomore safety Nate Gerry picks up a huge block from junior rush end Randy Gregory on Illinois wide receiver Malik Turner. Gerry returned the interception 54 yards to the Illinois two-yard line, but ran out of gas and was tackled before he could score. Three plays later Ameer Abdullah scored his third touchdown to make the score 21-7. Gerry's interceptions was one of three by the Huskers.

PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

IT'S FUN FOR FANS BEING UNDEFEATED THIS FAR INTO YEAR NU LOOKS TO BEAT TOP 10 Foe ON ROAD FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1997

WELL HUSKERS FANS, HERE WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF FALL AND THE FOOTBALL TEAM IS STILL UNDEFEATED THROUGH ITS FIRST TWO MONTHS OF THE SCHEDULE.

The last time Nebraska was undefeated this deep into the season Ameer Abdullah was a senior at Homewood (Alabama) High School.

Roy Helu was the man in the Husker backfield and Taylor Martinez was a freshman phenom at quarterback.

That 5-0 start that season came crashing down at the hands of unranked Texas in the sixth game of the season.

With the arrival of Abdullah in 2011, the Huskers also started 4-0 before being blown out by No. 7 Wisconsin 48-17 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Both those seasons eventually ended up with four losses.

So I think Huskers fans want to believe that this Saturday in East Lansing, Mich. will be different.

But you have to go all the way back to the 1997 National Championship team that defeated No. 2 Washington 27-14 in Seattle, Washington in the third game of that season to find the last Huskers' team to defeat a top-10 opponent on the road.

Frank Solich couldn't do. Bill Callahan couldn't do it. As of yet, current head coach Bo Pelini has also not been able to break through.

However, this season feels different.

It has since Abdullah announced after last year that he was coming back for his senior year.

Once that happened, Bo Pelini seemed to be able to unwind and joke with fans for the first time in a while and momentum has been snowballing.

Even with the McNeese State scare in



week two, the optimism and belief has continued to grow each week as NU's two No. 4s are willing their teammates to Ws with their leadership on both sides of the ball.

As I sat out in the crowd for half of Saturday's contest with Illinois, everyone around me was upbeat and on the same page with the other people in their section.

The division that has torn apart Husker Nation the last few years seems to be gone and almost all fans are genuinely excited about this year's group of players.

I think many Nebraska fans secretly hoped that the Huskers would be at this 5-0 point heading into the road trip to East Lansing when the season started, but were not ready to bet the house on it by virtue of the non-conference setbacks the last few years.

Now that Spartan week is officially here and Nebraska is indeed undefeated, everyone seems ready to pay back Michigan State for dancing around in Memorial Stadium last year after they wrapped up the Big Ten championship last year following their first ever win over NU.

"I don't know how that game is going to go," Pelini said after the Illinois game. "I don't have a crystal ball, but what we can control is getting better ourselves to give us the best opportunity to win the football game."

History is on Nebraska's side series wise as last year is the only time the Spartans have ever defeated the Huskers.

The last trip to East Lansing in 2012 resulted in Jamal Turner catching the game winner to cap a 28-24 comeback.

With a prime time national slot on ABC, Nebraska can be sure that all of its fans who don't make the 13-hour trip will be cautiously hoping this is finally the year to exercise some demons and keep the perfect season going.



CLOCKWISE FROM Above right: Marc Krame one of the homecoming parade floats. Tony a cheerleaders Megan Gould and Cassandra W Clarisa Almazan of Lincoln, Sara Frey of Linc ily - Kati, Rich, Grace and Chloe - from Colum Spencer, and Michaela Kenkel are joined by thony and Ryan Danekas and Andres Wettla

Behind the **N** Red Rising at Homecoming

PHOTOS BY MITCHO OTTO, JIMMY RASH, JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED



er from South Ogden, Utah poses with his two sons, Chase (5) and Grant (14) in front of and Sarah Campa and their daughter Faith came to the game from Marquette. Nebraska Milka help Charlotte Rausch of Omaha celebrate her 4th birthday at the game. From left, Poln and Charlie Kay of Ogallala pose for a shot before the Illinois game. The Odbert fam-bus pose for a picture in front of the stadium before the Illinois game. From left: Brian, Jane and Joe Berinitti and Jared Johnson before the Illinois game. Brothers Teddy, An-fer take a selfie outside the stadium.

Big numbers highlight offensive efforts

Imani Cross celebrates his touchdown run in the third quarter.



STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

While Ameer Abdullah has been making most of the headlines for Nebraska this season – and deservedly so – backup Imani Cross has continually prepared to be the Cornhuskers' starting I-back should the opportunity arise.

In NU's 45-14 Big Ten Conference home victory over Illinois, Cross showed he might indeed be ready to carry a heavier offensive load. The 6-foot-1, 230-pound junior rushed 22 times for a career-high 109 yards, including a four-yard third-quarter touchdown run.

"I haven't had 22 carries since I don't know when," Cross said. "It was really fun to get that kind of action and contribute to the team. I just did my role and played my part."

With Abdullah rushing 22 times for 208 yards and three TDs, it marked the second time this season and the 77th time in school history that Nebraska has boasted two 100-yard rushers in the same game. Abdullah and Terrell Newby both surpassed the 100-yard rushing mark in the season opener against Florida Atlantic.

Cross' 109 rushing yards bettered his previous career high of 105 yards last season against Wyoming.

"I expect it every week," Cross said. "I just prepare as if I'm the starter. Sometimes, I get as much as I want and sometimes I don't."

"The main thing is focusing every week and preparing as if I am the starter and being ready when my number is called."

For Abdullah, it was his fourth career

200-yard rushing game and third of the season. It was also Abdullah's 21st career 100-yard rushing game, which is now the second-most in Nebraska history, trailing only Mike Rozier's 26.

Abdullah's 208 total yards from scrimmage against Illinois increased his career yards from scrimmage total to 4,339, moving him past Ahman Green into second place on the NU list. Abdullah trails only Mike Rozier, who owns the school record with 4,996 career yards from scrimmage.

In other record-book news, Nebraska senior wide receiver Kenny Bell caught a 63-yard TD pass in the second quarter, tying his season-long reception. Bell, who had five receptions for 105 yards against Illinois, now has 17 career scoring receptions to move into third place on the NU career TD receptions list.

Defense comes up with big plays

STORY BY TERRY DOUGLASS | PHOTO BY JOE MIXAN

Nebraska defensive backs Daniel Davie and Nate Gerry both notched their first career interceptions to spearhead the Cornhuskers' defense in a 45-14 home victory over Illinois.

Davie made his first interception in the end zone to thwart a prime Fighting Illini opportunity and keep score tied 7-7 with 7:15 left in first quarter. Davie, a junior cornerback, later notched his second career interception in the fourth quarter.

"(Davie) played pretty good at times," Nebraska defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "Obviously, I was pretty happy with the (first) pick. I think Daniel is continuing to get better with the more reps that he gets."

Gerry, who had an interception against

Miami (Fla.) on Sept. 20 nullified by a penalty, finally got one to stand in the second quarter.

The sophomore safety returned his interception 54 yards to the Illinois 5-yard line thanks in part to a crushing block delivered on the sideline by Nebraska defensive end Randy Gregory.

"I gave a little jab step so that (Gregory) could set up (his block) a little better," Gerry said. "He smacked him pretty good."

Gerry also had five tackles, including a tackle for loss.

"Nate has been a good player for us," Papuchis said. "I just continue to see him improve and understand things at a higher level. I'm excited to watch his progress, not only this year, but going forward."

Linebacker Zaire Anderson led Nebraska's defense in tackles against Illinois

with nine. That included three tackles for loss and a sack.

Gregory finished with seven tackles, including 2.5 sacks and three tackles for loss. The junior All-America candidate was also credited with three quarterback hurries.

"Randy is a dominating player when he's getting after it," Papuchis said. "He constantly is someone that teams have to focus on. When they're doing that, it opens up different opportunities in the pressure game."

Nebraska had success with Gregory getting pressure on the quarterback by blitzing him from several different positions.

"We need to be creative in what we do," Papuchis said. "We're trying to make it a little bit different every week so that they never know exactly where he is and what he's doing."



Greg McMullen corrals Illinois running back Josh Ferguson while teammate Maliek Collins looks on.

Nebraska pounds Fighting Illini 45-14

Abdullah tops 200 yards, Cross breaks 100-yard barrier in win

STORY BY LANNY HOLSTEIN | PHOTO BY JIMMY RASH

A week after pounding Miami into submission, running for 343 yards on the tattered Hurricane defense, the Huskers did it again. This time they topped 400 yards, running for 458 in a 45-14 win over Illinois.

It all got started in the first quarter when Nebraska took it straight at the Illini with a heavy dose of Ameer Abdullah.

"I thought we really came out well running the football," coach Bo Pelini said. "You know 190 yards, some teams are happy to do that in the game. We did it in the first quarter, and that changes a football game."

The first quarter would prove to be just the tip of the iceberg. Nebraska kept at it all night, feeding its stable of running backs a total of 58 carries. Quarterback Tommy Armstrong tossed in 10 carries of his own and back-up quarterback Ryker Fyfe had two.

"That wears on people. It takes the wind out of people's sails," Pelini said. "There's nothing more demoralizing than when you can't stop the run. So I think that really set the tone for the football game."

Abdullah had another Heisman-caliber game, going for 208 yards and three touchdowns before coming out midway through the third quarter. He gave fans and coaches alike a scare when it appeared he injured his leg after his first carry of the second half, but Abdullah came back with a carry later in the third quarter. Pelini said his star running back was fine after the game.

"I like everything I see from Ameer. He's a pretty special player," Pelini said. "I mean he got hit in the knee and got a little bruise. We felt the game was in hand. Obviously we have a lot of good running backs, so we pulled the plug on him early in the third quarter and I thought that was the right thing to do."

Defensively, the Huskers started in their usual mode, slowly. After allowing a touchdown on the first drive, they clamped back down until another breakdown cost them seven more points in the second quarter.

The slow starts are a teaching opportunity, according to defensive coordinator John Papuchis.

"We're constantly teaching on the sidelines, going through why it was good or why

Offensive lineman Jake Cotton lifts Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah into the air during a touchdown celebration.



it was bad," he said. "They are trying to attack us with different route concepts and different protections, and our guys do a good job with the information they get."

Nebraska put in a special defense for the Illini, moving backup safety Kieron Williams to the Mike spot for much of the game to match the Illinois personnel.

"It was a little touch and go during the week at times because he's learning how to play Mike, and you know, he's still learning how to play safety," Papuchis said. "I thought today though, that he prepared himself to play, and he played well."

The new concept, called the dollar, by Husker coaches involves playing without a linebacker

on the field. All three of them were subbed out on Saturday for extra defensive backs.

"It looked like it was really good," Papuchis said. "Bottom line is, when they were going to go empty, you know, no running backs in the backfield, we were going to match their speed. We have the flexibility to make sure we are never out-athleted."

It worked for Nebraska last week, but Michigan State looms on Saturday. Pelini was critical of his team going into its toughest opponent to date.

"Like I said, there's a lot of good things in there, but we're nowhere near what we're capable of being or where we want to be," the coach said.

SUMMARY

SCORING

September 27, 2014

Memorial Stadium, Lincoln, Nebraska

Attendance: 91,255

	1	2	3	4	F
ILLINOIS	7	7	0	0	14
NEBRASKA	7	24	7	7	45

Q1 12:27 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 12 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 7-7 2:33

11:24 ILL - Ferguson, Josh 41 yd run (Reisner, David kick) 3-70 1:03

Q2 13:21 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 8 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 10-80 3:50

9:52 NEB - Abdullah, Ameer 2 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 3-2 1:22

8:43 NEB - Bell, Kenny 63 yd pass from Tommy Armstrong (Brown, Drew kick) 1-63 0:08

7:27 ILL - Allison, Geronimo 58 yd pass from Reilly O'Toole (Reisner, David kick) 4-75 1:16

2:48 NEB - Brown, Drew 29 yd field goal 11-70 4:34

Q3 7:56 NEB - Cross, Imani 4 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 11-68 5:31

Q4 4:58 NEB - Newby, Terrell 6 yd run (Brown, Drew kick) 10-64 3:48

ILLINOIS	NO
0	7
7	7
7	14
7	21
7	28
14	28
14	31
14	38
14	45

TEAM STATS

	NEBRASKA	ILLINOIS
FIRST DOWNS	35	16
Rushing	26	4
Passing	6	10
Penalty	3	2
NET YARDS RUSHING	458	78
Rushing Attempts	70	24
Average Per Rush	6.5	3.2
Rushing Touchdowns	5	1
Yards Gained Rushing	481	116
Yards Lost Rushing	23	38
NET YARDS PASSING	166	261
Completions-Attempts-Int.	10-21-1	17-38-3
Average Per Attempt	7.9	6.9
Average Per Completion	16.6	15.4
Passing Touchdowns	1	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	624	339
Total offense plays	91	62
Average Gain Per Play	6.9	5.5
Fumbles: Number-Lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	8-70	7-53
PUNTS-YARDS	3-113	8-338
Average Yards Per Punt	37.7	42.2
Net Yards Per Punt	37.7	38.2
Inside 20	2	0
50+ Yards	0	2
Touchbacks	0	1
Fair catch	1	1
KICKOFFS-YARDS	8-519	3-180
Average Yards Per Kickoff	64.9	60.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	39.5	50.3
Touchbacks	7	1
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	3-12-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	4.0	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	1-4-0	1-28-0
Average Per Return	4.0	28.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	3-71-0	1-14-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Possession Time	39:36	20:24
Third-Down Conversions	7 of 15	3 of 14
Fourth-Down Conversions	1 of 2	0 of 1
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	6-6	0-1
Touchdowns	5-6	0-1
Field goals	1-6	0-1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-28	2-13
PAT Kicks	6-6	2-2
Field Goals	1-2	0-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

ILLINOIS

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Ferguson, Josh	11	70	9	61	1	41	5.5
Dudek, Mike	1	27	0	27	0	27	27.0
Young, Donovan	5	17	0	17	0	5	3.4
Davis, Jon	1	0	1	-1	0	0	-1.0
O'Toole, Reilly	6	2	28	-26	0	1	-4.3
Totals	24	116	38	78	1	41	3.2

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
O'Toole, Reilly	17-38-3	261	1	58	4
Totals	17-38-3	261	1	58	4

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Dudek, Mike	6	90	0	28
Allison, Geronimo	5	118	1	58
Ferguson, Josh	3	29	0	22
Barr, Martize	2	17	0	14
Young, Donovan	1	7	0	7
Totals	17	261	1	58

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TBD
DuVernois, Justin	8	338	42.2	74	0	1

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Bentley, V'Angelo	0	0	0	1	28	28	0	0	0
Neal Jr, T.J.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	14	14

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
21 Petty, Zane	2	13	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
43 Monheim, M.	4	8	12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
3B Barton, Tay.	5	6	11	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
52 Neal, T.J.	1	9	10	-	-	-	-	1-14	1	-	1
17 Ward, Jihad	3	3	6	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 Fejedelem, C.	2	4	6	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
27 Spence, Eat.	1	4	5	-	-	-	1-0	-	-	-	-
2 Bentley, V.	0	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9T Thomas, E.	3	1	4	-	2-6	-	-	-	-	-	-
42 Cooper, R.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24 Mosely, D.	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14 Finney, Eric	0	4	4	-	1-0	-	-	-	-	-	-
44 Teitsma, Au.	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
96 Bain, Rob	1	2	3	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 Woods, De.	0	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
99 Clements, Ja	0	3	3	-	2-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
58 Nelson, Ken.	2	0	2	1-8	2-11	-	-	-	-	-	-
22 Walls, La.	2	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
91 Smoot, D.	1	1	2	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	1	-
10 Bello, B.J.	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6P Phillips, Ca.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8C Cazley, Dill.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
56 Martin, Mich.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Ferguson, Josh	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33 Grimes, Z.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19 Hardee, Just.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95 Howe, Jake	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NEBRASKA

RUSHING	NO	GAIN	LOST	NET	TD	LG	AVG
Abdullah, Ameer	22	208	0	208	3	28	9.5
Cross, Imani	22	115	6	109	1	15	5.0
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	10	75	9	66	0	25	6.6
Nelson, Jordy	5	37	2	35	0	18	7.0
Newby, Terrell	9	35	1	34	1	11	3.8
Fyfe, Ryker	2	11	5	6	0	11	3.0
Totals	70	481	23	458	5	28	6.5

PASSING	C-A-I	YDS	TD	LONG	SACK
Armstrong Jr., Tommy	10-21-1	166	1	63	1
Fyfe, Ryker	0-0-0	0	0	0	1
Totals	10-21-1	166	1	63	2

RECEIVING	NO	YARDS	TD	LONG
Bell, Kenny	5	105	1	63
Westerkamp, Jordan	2	31	0	20
Newby, Terrell	2	21	0	20
Moore, Alonzo	1	9	0	9
Totals	10	166	1	63

PUNTS	NO	YDS	AVG	LONG	IN20	TB
Foltz, Sam	3	113	37.7	49	2	0

RETURNS	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG	NO	YDS	LG
Pierson-El, Dem.	3	12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Davie, Daniel	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	17	17
Gerry, Nathan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	54	54
Abdullah, Ameer	0	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	0

FIELD GOALS	QTR	TIME	DISTANCE	RES
Brown, Drew	2nd	02:48	29 yds	Good
Brown, Drew	2nd	00:03	54 yds	Good

DEFENSE	TS	AT	TT	SACK-YD	TFL-YD	FF	FR-YD	INT-YD	BU	BLK	QBH
13 Anderson, Z	4	5	9	1-9	3-13	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Gregory, Randy	5	2	7	2.5-17	3-17	-	-	-	-	3	-
10 Kalu, Josh	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 Gerry, Nathan	1	4	5	-5-2	1-2	-	-	1-54	-	2	-
5 Mitchell, Josh	4	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6 Cooper, Corey	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
90 McMullen, Gr. 1	1	2	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
52 Banderas, Jo.	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7A Collins, Maliek	0	2	2	-	1-2	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 Westerkamp, J	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
98 Valentin, Win.	1	0	1	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	0	0
43 Roach, Trevor	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28 Cockrell, By.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
8 Singleton, D.J.	1	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2C Williams, Kie.	1	0	1	-	1-1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 Maurice, Kev.	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 Hovey, Lane	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Felici, Joey	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23 Davie, Daniel	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	2-17	-	-	-

Randy Gregory picks up one of his 2.5 sacks on Illinois quarterback Reilly O'Toole.



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

RUSHING OFFENSE: Nebraska's rushing attack finished with 458 yards on the ground as the Huskers made it a point to run the ball often against a struggling Illinois defense. It was apparent early that there would be plenty of room to run for Nebraska's backs and Ameer Abdullah and Imani Cross found a good bulk of their success in the first quarter, setting a tone for the rest of the game. NU's offensive line played well, opening space and giving the running back lanes. More importantly, Nebraska did a nice job getting to the second and third levels. The Huskers had a few big runs on the night including a 28-yard run by Abdullah, but most of it came at large chunks as the offensive unit wore out Illinois. The only negative came early when Cross fumbled it in the first quarter, killing a promising drive. – *Mike Schaefer*

A

PASSING OFFENSE: The bulk of this grade came on a very nice 63-yard pitch and catch from Tommy Armstrong to Kenny Bell in the second quarter. The Huskers had been running all game and Illinois was anticipating a play action pass, but when it finally came, Bell was wide open and Armstrong hit him in stride for the easy score. The rest of the passing game was decidedly ugly. Armstrong completed just nine other passes on the evening, most quick throws for small gains, with a couple going over seven yards. More importantly, he looked off, threw into coverage too often, made poor decisions at times – one of which that lead to an interception. Armstrong finished under 50 percent completion percentage, even with Nebraska clearly showing strength in the running game and forcing defenses to realign. If this was an outlier, it wouldn't be a concern, but at this juncture this just might the quarterback Nebraska is getting the rest of the season. – *Mike Schaefer*

C

RUSHING DEFENSE: Even with a depleted linebacker corps, Nebraska did a nice job of bottling up the Illinois running game. The Illini sent a right cross to Nebraska's jaw in the first quarter with a 41-yard touchdown run by running back Josh Ferguson. From there, though, Nebraska was dominating up front, allowing just 44 yards over the next two quarters and keeping Ferguson in check. On the night, Nebraska allowed just 78 net yards rushing and kept Ferguson from breaking out into space – something the Huskers failed to do in last year's win over Illinois. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

PASSING DEFENSE: The news that quarterback Wes Lunt wouldn't start against Nebraska certainly helped Nebraska's chances in the passing game. Without Lunt, Nebraska was able to throw off backup quarterback Reilly O'Toole, who finished 17-for-38 for 261 yards and a touchdown. More importantly, the Huskers forced two interceptions and turned up the pressure on O'Toole in the second half, sacking him four times in the game, and intercepting three passes. The blemishes for Nebraska came midway through the second quarter when Geronimo Allison beat Josh Mitchell for a jump ball, resulting in a 58 yard touchdown pass that accounted for nearly a third of Illinois' yardage through the air. Daniel Davie and Nathan Gerry both had first half interceptions for the Huskers. – *Michael Bruntz*

B

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS: Not much to grade on here. Sam Foltz punted just three times in the game, and DeMornay Pierson-El didn't really get a chance to show what he could do in the punt return game. Give credit to Illinois punter Justin DuVernois for not only a strong leg, but also for kicking away from Pierson-El. Drew Brown missed a 54-yard field goal, but had more than the leg to get it there. Brown again showed that he can handle double duty, stepping in for the injured Mauro Bondi, and booting seven of his eight kicks for touchbacks. Sometimes, if you aren't able to make a game-changing play on special teams, a quiet, uneventful night can be just as good. – *Michael Bruntz*

B+

Quoting defensive back Nate Gerry On his interception return:



"We were showing pressure and I was middle safety, and we put in a new solid package today so we had me and (Corey) Cooper playing the box and one person is blitzing and I was middle third. I saw one of their guys got beat in coverage and kind of came my way so I just went and high-pointed it. I was a little upset I didn't score, but I had no gas left in the chamber. I went and found a trash can. That was the first thing."

Game Notes

FIRST DRIVE WOES CONTINUE

Nebraska allowed yet another first-drive touchdown to open the game Saturday against Illinois. When Illini running back Josh Ferguson scampered 41 yards for a score on Illinois' fourth offensive play, it marked the fourth time in five games that Nebraska opened the gates for its opponent to start the game.

"I can't stand the way we start games," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "We've tried different things, but obviously, we aren't doing the right things to start better. Four home games, and we've spotted the other team a touchdown in all of them."

The lone game where the Huskers bowed up on the first series was their road contest out at Fresno State. Something has to change, according to Papuchis.

"Somehow, some way we have to start better," he said. "Maybe it's the way we start our practice. I don't know what it is, but we certainly can't go forward spotting people points in the first series."

GREGORY COMES UP BIG

Nebraska defensive end Randy Gregory led the Big Ten in sacks a year ago with 10.5, but he had just two through four non-conference games due in large part to missing one and almost all of a second game.

Then came Saturday's breakout game against Illinois. The athletic specimen was too much for the Illini offensive line on multiple occasions, tossing 2.5 more sacks onto his season total.

"Randy's a dominating player when he's getting after it," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "He constantly is someone who teams have to focus on. When they're doing that, it opens up different opportunities for you in the pressure game."

The Huskers moved Gregory around all night, never leaving him in one spot for longer than a few plays. The defensive end lined up anywhere from the traditional spot on the end of the line to standing up over the center. It was all part of the plan, according to Papuchis.

"We know going into every game that people are going to have a plan on how to block him," the defensive coordinator said. "As long as we try to make it a little different every week, they don't know where he is and what he's doing."

DAVIE PICKING ON ILLINOIS

With Illinois threatening to the lead midway through the first quarter Saturday, Husker cornerback Daniel Davie came up with a big play. The first-year starter jumped a Reilly O'Toole pass in the end zone, saving his team three points at minimum.

"He stepped in front of it," defensive coordinator John Papuchis said. "That was their No. 1 route that they run. They clear out with No. 2 and they run an in route with No. 1. Daniel was covering it, knew it was coming and did a good job."

Randy Gregory lays a jarring block on Illinois wide receiver Malik Turner during Nate Gerry's interception return.



JOE MIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

The interception was only the beginning for Davie. He would go on to record another interception in the fourth quarter on an errant pass. The picks were Davie's first as a Husker.

"He was solid," Papuchis said. "I think he's continuing to get better, and obviously I like what he did on those plays."

HUSKERS DON ALTERNATE ALL-RED UNIFORMS

Nebraska showed up Saturday looking a little different than normal. The Huskers donned brand new alternate uniforms for their game with Illinois, part of Adidas' marketing campaign. The get-up was a little more gaudy than the normal version. Decked in a solid red from head to toe with black numbers and a helmet

that switches from red to black, the team was hard to miss.

"They were really cool," defensive tackle Vincent Valentine said. "We enjoyed it, getting pumped up a little bit looking at each other wearing the new uniforms. It was exciting, but it was one game."

Nebraska won't wear the jerseys again this season. It's back to the traditional scarlet and cream for the rest of the year - something that makes certain fans sad and others happy.

NU CONTINUES NIGHT WIN STREAKS

Nebraska won its 15th straight home night game and improved to 41-5 all-time in night games at Memorial Stadium. The win also

gave Nebraska a 4-0 record at home this season ensuring Nebraska's 46th consecutive winning home season. Nebraska won its sixth straight game overall, including last year's bowl victory over Georgia. The six-game win streak ties for the longest under Pelini, and is the fourth time Nebraska has achieved a six-game win streak under Pelini.

OFFENSE CLICKS UP POINTS

Nebraska scored more than 30 points for the fifth straight game to open the season, marking just the second time in the past 19 seasons the Huskers have scored at least 30 points in each of their first five games. NU scored at least 30 points in each of the first six games in 2012.

FINAL SCORE: NEBRASKA 45, ILLINOIS 14





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: TREVOR ROACH (43), SAFETY COREY COOPER (6) AND DEFENSIVE BACK BYERSON COCKRELL (28) COMBINE TO BRING DOWN HIGH FLYING ILLINI WIDE RECEIVER MARTIZE BARR. (JIMMY RASH) TERRELL NEWBY DIVES OVER ILLINI DEFENSIVE BACK ZANE PETTY. (JIMMY RASH) NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS DEFENSIVE END RANDY GREGORY (4) AND DEFENSIVE END GREG MCMULLEN COMBINE TO SACK ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI QUARTERBACK REILLY O'TOOLE (JIMMY RASH) KENNY BELL CONCENTRATES ON THE BALL FOR A 63-YARD TOUCHDOWN CATCH. (JOE MIXAN) AMEER ABDULLAH DIVES OVER FOR THIS THIRD TOUCHDOWN. (MITCH OTTO) ABDULLAH SHAKES HANDS WITH THE CHEERLEADERS AS HE CELEBRATES THE HOMECOMING VICTORY. (MITCH OTTO)

2MinuteDrill

Jordan Westerkamp makes a touchdown catch against Florida Atlantic.

A full-page photograph of Jordan Westerkamp, a Nebraska football player, in action. He is wearing a red jersey with the number 1, white pants with red stripes, and a white helmet with red facemask. He is in the process of catching a football with his right hand, while his left hand is open. The background is blurred, showing other players and spectators.

**WESTERKAMP
MAKES IT 2-0
AGAINST DAD'S
ALMA MATER**

JOEMIXAN/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

By Darren Ivy, Lanny Holstein and Michael Bruntz

Illinois was a special opponent for Nebraska wide receiver Jordan Westerkamp.

The star slot receiver got a chance to beat his home-state school, a school that his own father played football for in the mid-1980s.

Westerkamp's father, Robert Westerkamp, is a big Husker fan now, but he was once orange and blue through and through. This week is a bit of a split in the Westerkamp household.

"He was on the team that went to the Rose Bowl in 1985, I believe it was, and he has a Rose Bowl jersey and all that," Jordan said of his father. "He was making a joke the other day that he was going to wear his Rose Bowl jersey to the game and stand on their sideline. He asked if that was okay. I just started laughing."

Westerkamp's father likes to keep things light around his son, but there's no question where his loyalties lie these days.

"He gives me jabs here and there, but he's obviously a Nebraska fan and he's pumped up for this game," Jordan said leading up to Saturday.

Westerkamp grew up in the same area (just outside Chicago) his father did, attending the same high school and starring in football just the same. The split in father and son's path came when it was time for Jordan to pick a college.

Although his father went to the school, the younger Westerkamp wasn't much of an Illinois fan growing up. Nebraska lured him away with its coaching staff and football tradition.

Many of Westerkamp's friends, on the other hand, couldn't resist the lure of the home state school.

In fact, the Illini's starting quarterback, Wes Lunt, is one of Westerkamp's better childhood friends.

"Obviously, he's from Illinois, so whenever there would be banquets around for the good players, he would always be there," Westerkamp said. "I met his family and stuff like that, and I also played in an All-American game with him my senior year."

The friendship didn't come between Westerkamp and his competitive nature this past week.

The wide receiver gave his defense the full scouting report on his childhood friend in preparation for the game.

"He's a great pocket quarterback, a pocket passer," Westerkamp said.

The two were in touch leading up to the game as well.

Westerkamp said he would give Lunt a call going into the game, but he made sure to clarify he had no intentions of trash talking him in any way.

After Miami's Antonio Crawford took to Instagram before the 'Canes and Huskers played a week ago to tell the receiver a few things about what was going to happen in the game, Westerkamp saw firsthand what kind of a backlash that can get.

As for Westerkamp's reaction to the digital attack he took leading up to Miami, he just laughed.

"My brother ended up telling me about it," Westerkamp said. "He was like 'do you see this?' And I was like 'No, what are you talking about.' Yeah, it was a Miami DB, and I read it. It was funny. I saw Kenny (Bell) put something and Tommy (Armstrong) also put something. We all thought it was a funny deal."

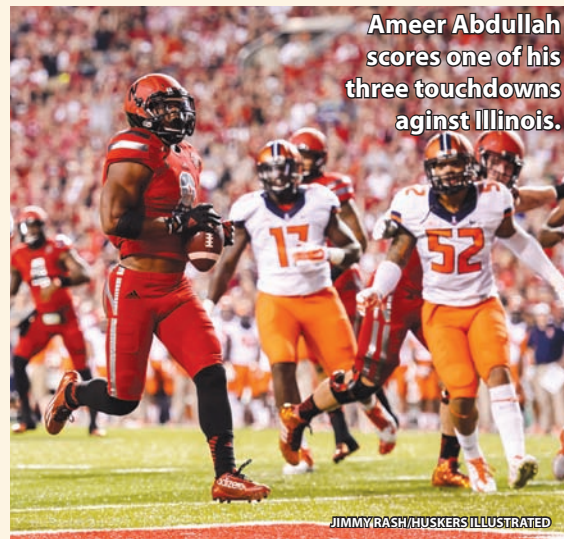
ABDULLAH HONORED BY BIG TEN CONFERENCE

Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah was named Big Ten Offensive Co-Player of the Week with Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon following the 41-31 win over Miami.

Abdullah totaled 313 all-purpose yards – an NCAA single-game high in 2014 – as he rushed for 229 yards on 35 carries and two scores and

HI'S TOP 5

200-YARD RUSHING PERFORMANCES IN HUSKER CAREER



Ameer Abdullah scores one of his three touchdowns against Illinois.

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

1 MIKE ROZIER
7 TIMES, HIGH OF 285 YARDS

2 AMEER ABDULLAH
4 TIMES, HIGH OF 229 YARDS

AHMAN GREEN
4 TIMES, HIGH OF 214 YARDS

4 I.M. HIPP
3 TIMES, HIGH OF 254 YARDS

5 DAN ALEXANDER, CALVIN JONES, LAWRENCE PHILLIPS, JAMAAL LORD, RICK BERNES, KEITH JONES, KEN CLARK, TAYLOR MARTINEZ
2 TIMES EACH

With his 208 rushing yards on 22 carries, Ameer Abdullah topped the 200-yard mark for the second-straight game and third time in five games this season. It was the fourth time in Abdullah's career he has gained more than 200 yards, also achieving the feat against Illinois in 2013. Mike Rozier ran for 200 yards four times in 1983 and three times in 1982. Ahman Green had three 200-yard games in 1997.

Offensive lineman Jake Cotton blocks during the season-opening game against Florida Atlantic when the Huskers set a Big Ten record for total yardage.



JABBING WITH

JAKE COTTON

Nebraska senior offensive lineman Jake Cotton is one of five co-captains for the Huskers this season. He and his fellow offensive linemen are trying to be like the “Pipeline” offensive lines of the 1990s.

Story By LANNY HOLSTEIN • Photo By JOE MIXAN

You have to love games like Miami where you are running the ball so much, right?

“Any chance that we get to run the ball and run the ball a lot, you get excited as an offensive lineman. I think any offensive lineman will tell you that. I don’t think that’s any mystery to anybody.”

Why do linemen like to run so much?

“You get a chance to be physical and work defenses over. I think that’s fun as an offensive lineman. I don’t know. I think it’s just part of our DNA.”

Is that the way your dad feels too?

“The o-lineman in him wants to run, but he was a coordinator for 15 years, and he sees that you have to throw, you have to pass to be successful. I think he and Coach Beck are in the same understanding.”

You guys haven’t allowed a sack thus far. How are you doing that?

“It’s easy not to give up a sack when you are running so much, but you just have to ID your guys pre-snap. Alex (Lewis) and Mark (Pelini) have done a tremendous job of that, and it just comes down to executing. We’ve done an okay job. I think we’ve had a few more bodies on the quarterback after the ball is thrown than we’ve liked.”

Does a raucous home crowd hype you up as an offensive lineman?

“If the place is rocking, it gets the blood going a little bit. It doesn’t affect what you have to do X’s- and O’s-wise or responsibility-wise, but it gives you a little bit more juice.”

What do you think of the alternate jerseys for the Illinois game?

“I think they are sweet. I think our Adidas rep and Jay Terry have done a great job with the uniforms the past few years. They are fun, a nice changeup. That’s really all it is,

to me at least.”

Do you know much about those guys that came before you on the “Pipeline?”

“Oh, yeah. We walk by their faces every day in the trophy cases and on the All-American wall. I got to know Coach (Brendan) Stai pretty well when he was a GA for us. He came over and talked to me before the Miami game, and I thought that was pretty cool coming from a guy that beat Miami.”

Is that kind of a standard for you guys?

“You know when you go to practice or when you are thinking about playing offensive line for Nebraska that you are a part of something more than maybe you would be at any other school in the country. I don’t remember the stat, but in the early 70’s there was an all-conference offensive linemen for something like 30 straight years. That’s pretty special.”

Did the McNeese State game serve as a wakeup call for the line?

“Yeah. I think we learned very quickly that you can play very well one week, and then play really bad the next week. It all comes down to preparation and taking what the coaches say to heart and not what people say on campus or downtown, stuff like that. The coaches aren’t going to lie to you. They aren’t going to blow smoke.”

Are you glad you got the wakeup call out of the way before conference play started?

“Yeah. It really matters now. I mean, the last four games weren’t for conference, so now it kind of turns up a notch. I can guarantee to you that no one on this team is looking past a conference opponent. I don’t even think the coaches have to play that up. Everyone understands the significance of a conference game and what a win means compared to a loss.”

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added a three-yard touch-down catch. He also had four kickoff returns for 81 yards in the win.

Abdullah moved from fifth to third on Nebraska's career rushing list while taking over the lead on the school's career all-purpose yards chart, ahead of Johnny Rodgers. It was the second time Abdullah won the weekly Big Ten award.

"That's news to me, I didn't even know. I guess it's a good honor," Abdullah said last Monday. "I mean I always just want to win player of the week, I guess. I didn't really look across the Big Ten to see who's worthy. The first time I won it, I shouldn't have. (Penn State quarterback Christian) Hackenberg should have won the first time I got it, but you know I'm glad I got it."

The Big Ten honor was one of several for Abdullah, as he was also named to the Paul Hornung Award Honor Roll for the second time this season and was chosen as the Athlon Sports Big Ten Player of the Week.

KACZENSKI IS HIGH ON DEFENSIVE LINE

Nebraska defensive line coach Rick Kaczenski oversees one of the youngest, but most talented groups on Nebraska's defensive line. He updated his group Friday morning at the Big Red Breakfast, touching on a variety of topics.

— Kaczenski said he liked how his group, and the defense as a whole, got back to work Sunday morning after the win over Miami. Kaczenski said the Hurricanes haven't been mentioned since the end of Saturday's game and that Illinois has his team's attention. The Fighting Illini return four of the five offensive linemen who started against Nebraska last year in Lincoln. "They



DEFENSIVE TACKLE MALIEK COLLINS (7) CELEBRATES A STOP AGAINST MIAMI AS RANDY GREGORY LOOKS ON.

JIMMY RASH/HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

average about 310 pounds, so they're big guys, they're experienced and they don't have to hold their blocks very long for the running backs they have," Kaczenski said.

— Illinois uses a lot of quick passing, Kaczenski said, and Illinois will max protect at times, making life difficult for opposing defensive linemen. Even so, Kaczenski said he likes Nebraska's match ups against Illinois.

— Kaczenski was complimentary of the atmosphere during Saturday's win over Miami. Kaczenski said that at times, Nebraska's coaches had trouble hearing each other over their headsets because of the crowd noise.

— Kaczenski on Maliek Collins: "Maliek, he could be special. He is special. You talk about a guy who comes to work every single day. Blue collar guy who has a wrestling background, plays with great leverage. His hands are unbelievable. His footwork is getting better. He's a tough guy... he's the first guy in the meeting

room, he's taking notes. He's a football player. He's a guy who does more than what's expected. That's Maliek Collins. His natural talent and God-given talent. There's no doubt that he could be a great one. He's a guy who can make coaches look really, really good."

— Kaczenski took the high road on Vincent Valentine's roughing the passer penalty against Miami. The defensive line coach said he won't get on Valentine for playing hard and trying to make a play.

— The defensive line coach talked about what he looks for when recruiting defensive ends. "Everybody is trying to find the best guys, and everybody is in on the same guys," Kaczenski said. "You have to take the best guys, and you plug them in," he said. "I like the guys we have."

— Kaczenski touched briefly on the three freshman scholarship defensive ends in the program. He said he likes what Sedrick King, Peyton Newell and Mick Stoltenberg bring to the room. "Sedrick King,

he's a long one," Kaczenski said. "I'm not going to compare him to Randy (Gregory), but he has a similar body type. Peyton Newell is more of a McMullen, and Stoltenberg is somebody we don't have anybody like. He's 270 pound kid that can run and is physical. If he's not a special player in a few years, it's my fault. He's got all the intangibles, mobility and is tough, hard-nosed. That guy is going to do some special things for us."

— Kaczenski said what he looks for in potential defensive ends are hips and length. He said he's comfortable playing short defensive ends if the player has long arms.

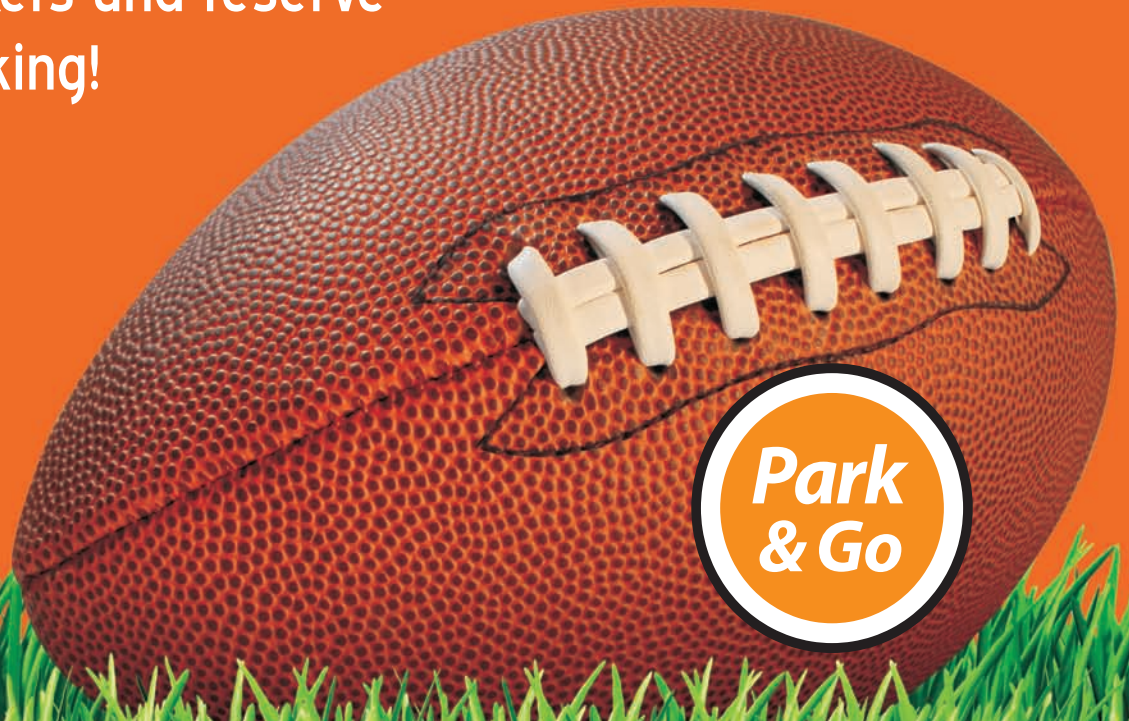
— Kaczenski said junior defensive tackle Kevin Williams is back to full strength and should see more snaps Saturday against Illinois.

— There are always surprises, Kaczenski said about recruiting players or finding potential defensive linemen. He said Jack Gangwish walked into his office and talked about wanting to be a defensive end after beginning his career as a linebacker. "I

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said, ‘OK’ then I went to (linebackers) coach (Ross) Els and said ‘who was that?’”

– An overlooked aspect of the defensive line is continuity and teammates playing together. Kaczinski said his best defensive lines at Iowa were when teammates has played a lot of snaps together. That’s starting to happen with his group at Nebraska, Kaczinski said. “You have a bunch of guys who are going to be here a long time and playing together,” he said. “When guys start playing together for a long time, they start feeding off each other. They know what the other guy’s doing. They know how the other guy’s playing. That’s why I’m real excited about the young guys.”

– Kaczinski said Randy Gregory is now full go after needing a game or two to get back up to speed. He said he has to tell Gregory to calm down in the locker room before games because he gets so wound up. “He’s like a caged animal in the locker room,” Kaczinski said.

– The defensive line coach was asked about Nebraska’s alternate uniforms, and initially forgot that Nebraska was wearing them for Saturday’s game against Illinois. “I leave the house when it’s dark and I come home when it’s dark,” he said. “I wish I had time to worry about them.”

LINEBACKERS PLAY IS AN ISSUE FOR HUSKERS

The Nebraska linebacking corps. has found itself as the center of attention quite a bit early in the season. Opposing offenses seem to be picking on the unit with short passes to tight ends and running backs, which can be tough on a defense, according to coach Bo Pelini.

“Especially when you’re giving them the long field,” he said. “We made the mis-

Ameer Abdullah embraces Miami’s Duke Johnson after the 41-31 win.



take of giving them the long field and not using the boundary to our advantage a couple of times. And like I said, I don’t think technique-wise that we did that very well.”

The biggest issue in the coach’s mind is that the mistakes have been piling up on his linebackers. They haven’t found the answer yet this season, and it is getting worrisome.

“One time, shame on me, but when it happens a couple times, you’ve got to know where to push them and where the help is,” Pelini said. “If you don’t have any help, you’ve got to make sure you use the sideline.”

ABDULLAH RUNNING LIKE HE’S POSSESSED

Where do you have Ameer Abdullah in the Heisman race?

Let’s hope it’s in the top five because if not, coach Bo Pelini doesn’t think you should be allowed a vote.

“Anybody who pays attention I’m sure has him in the top five,” Pelini said. “You’ve got to not be paying attention and not watching to not recognize the type of year he’s having so far. That’s my opinion. I’m a little biased maybe.”

Against Miami, Abdullah had a career night, and

there might have been a little something extra going on behind those ridiculous runs, according to the coach.

“I don’t know if the first guy brought him down all night, and I’ve been around a lot of football,” Pelini said. “I don’t remember many times you can say that. He continues to show why he is who he is. He stepped up and he was possessed the other night.”

PELINI DISHES ON THE HAIL MARY

Nebraska coach Bo Pelini successfully executed one more Hail Mary pass than most coaches do in a lifetime last season when Ron Kellogg found Jordan Westerkamp on a tipped ball to beat Northwestern.

He was asked for his expertise on the most desperate of all plays this past week at his weekly presser, and didn’t disappoint.

“Last year, we get a ball tipped and our guy executed well,” the coach said. “He was in the right spot. Every one is going to be a little bit different.”

If Nebraska needs to execute another one of those plays this season, they are ready, according to Pelini. It’s something that’s in the playbook and in the practice schedule. And how could it

not be after last season.

“We talk about it a couple times a year,” Pelini said. “We do it in the preseason. We walk through it. We kind of have things in place on our walkthrough days where we talk about it, saying if this comes up, this is what we’re going to do on both sides of the football.”

That being said, it’s still a freakish play.

“It’s not one you really want to do full speed and live because you don’t want a bunch of people jumping on top of each other,” Pelini said. “It’s hard to simulate. It’s kind of like okay, we’re going to put you in position, let’s hope it works out.”

ARMSTRONG NOT PICKING A FAVORITE

Conventional wisdom says a quarterback needs a go-to receiver to throw to, someone to help him out of a jam when he’s feeling the pressure in his face or he needs to convert a third down with the game on the line.

Nebraska quarterback Tommy Armstrong doesn’t buy into the conventional wisdom.

He has a receiving corps. that’s shared the receptions fairly equally through the early part of the season. The experienced Kenny Bell and talented sophomore Jordan Westerkamp are battling for the most targets, but Armstrong said he has faith in the entire position group when the game is on the line. He’s not looking for a special guy, he’s looking for the open guy.

“Coach Fish (Rich Fisher) stresses on those guys making key plays, making key blocks and being playmakers when their number is called,” Armstrong said. “They’ve just got to respond the right way.”



RECRUITING NOTEBOOK

BY MICHAEL SCHAEFER

RECRUITING EDITOR

HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Miles lands son of former Husker Morrow

One week can make a world of difference in recruiting. A week ago 2015 forward Ed Morrow was starting to think that maybe Iowa was the place to call home.

Now he's a Nebraska basketball commit and excited to sign in November.

"I can tell you that last week my mind was leaning another way and that I was going to Iowa," he said. "I told my parents, I talked to them and they never really told me where I should've gone, they just supported me... So when I came to Nebraska and then I told them 'This is my last visit. I know when I know.' What they're doing here is completely different."

Nebraska's staff played the biggest role in landing Morrow. The Chicago area basketball recruit developed a good bond with Tim Miles, Kenya Hunter and the rest of the staff. That helped the Huskers to really sink their teeth in and recruit Morrow aggressively.

Hunter has had a good summer as he played a large role in bringing in Kansas transfer Andrew White and now Morrow. The assistant's personality and good nature has aided him well in the recruiting game.

"The thing I can say is

that he's another really good people person," Morrow said. "He really knows how to talk to people. He's very persuasive but he really studies that person to get a better understanding of what they have going on and what they are capable of."

"That says a lot about Kenya Hunter as well – he left Georgetown to come to Nebraska. What made him make that decision? Everything about this staff is set for continuously building the program and who knows, a few years from now this could be a program that everyone talks about. I just want to be part of that."

The role for Morrow is a little undetermined as he's a bit of a tweener as player between the wing and the post.

However, 247Sports recruiting analyst Jerry Meyer sees enough talent in Morrow's game that he'll find ways to help the Huskers.

"He's really good in traffic, and knows how to get the ball in the bucket," Meyer said. "He's a rebounder and a scorer in the interior. He needs to improve basic things – shooting range, ball handling, passing. It's not like he's unskilled, just not that I

would say highly skilled.

"I think he'll play a four. Nebraska with (Tim) Miles has had success with four-men like him – a little undersized, but athletic. I think other four men are going to have trouble guarding him because of his quickness and his explosiveness."

Morrow is the third Nebraska commit to join the Huskers in a month's time. He joins Michael Jacobsen and Glynn Watson as the other 2015 recruits and getting to know them helped pave the road for Nebraska.

"Those guys really sold me," he said. "Those guys coming in at the same time and those are some pretty good guys. I've played against both and they're guys that stood out on their teams. I'm just ready to contribute and be part of that."

Nebraska's awakening last year in the Big Ten didn't hurt either as Morrow said he really started to take notice of the Huskers during their tournament run.

"In all honesty I didn't know much about Nebraska's program until this year and they really did surprise me because pre-season everyone said how bad they were going to be, but the talent on that team

showed otherwise," he said.

"It was more than just the team though. It had a lot to do with the coaches. I've gotten to know everyone on that coaching staff from head to toe and that was very important to me."

"I wanted to know if they were who I wanted to be around and if I was comfortable with those guys and how much they wanted me to be there. I just really enjoyed those guys and everything they've told me is true thus far."

Saturday was a perfect combination of atmosphere and excitement to help set up the Morrow commitment. Prior to picking the Miami game, Morrow said he wasn't aware that the Huskers intended to honor the 1994 team that his father, Ed Sr., played on for Nebraska.

That experience along with Nebraska's fan support set the stage for a memorable visit.

"I think Tim Miles had a little insight about the reunion because he mentioned that as the game to attend," Morrow said. "It was very exciting for my dad. All the hard work and everything he did to be successful that added to Nebraska program, I just want to build off that." **N**

Nebraska going all out behind Ameer Abdullah in chase for the Heisman

BY MICHAEL BRUNTZ

A FEW WEEKS AGO, national writers and media members began receiving packs of batteries promoting Nebraska senior running back Ameer Abdullah for the Heisman Trophy and other postseason awards.

About 250 of the packs were made and distributed to media and social media luminaries with Nebraska ties like Ndamukong Suh and Larry The Cable Guy.

The Heisman talk has intensified somewhat for Abdullah, but is still a bit quiet nationally, and the senior running back prefers it that way. Abdullah said that while he had mixed feelings about the batteries, he appreciated Nebraska promoting him. In addition to the batteries, Nebraska also launched FearAmeer.com to promote Abdullah.

"It's definitely a blessing," Abdullah said. "I remember in high school seeing Ndamukong Suh and wondering why he wasn't promoted as much as he should have been. I felt like he should have been the first pure defensive player to win the Heisman. For them to push me as well as they have up to this point, shows they care about me as a person as much as a football player. They want to see me do well and see the fan support...it's cool and something I'm cherishing in my senior year."

Nebraska has launched quiet Heisman campaigns in the past. For Suh, there was a website, and traditional mailers after Nebraska's win in 2009 over Missouri. Nebraska launched a site for Rex Burkhead, and had a website in the production phase for quarterback Taylor Martinez last year before an injury derailed his senior year. The same thing happened with Burkhead, who missed most of his final campaign with a nagging knee injury.

Planning for how to promote Abdullah started last spring after the running back announced that he would return for his senior year. Abdullah has also held up his end of the bargain too. He earned his second Big Ten offensive player of the week honor after shredding Miami for 229 yards rushing and two touchdowns on 35 carries. He finished with 313 all-purpose yards and extended his lead as the FBS' active leader in all-purpose yards. He followed that up with 208 yards and three touchdowns against Illinois in less than three quarters of action.

"I don't know if the first guy brought him down all night," Nebraska head coach Bo Pelini said of the Miami game. "I've been around a lot of football. I don't remember many times you can say that. He continues to show why he is who he is. He stepped up and was possessed the other night. He always does, but the other night was special."

"Anybody out there who says he isn't big enough or he doesn't run big enough, they need to take a good hard look at that film because he ran big the other night."



"Anybody out there who says he isn't big enough or he doesn't run big enough, they need to take a good hard look at that film because he ran big the other night."

For the season, Abdullah has 833 yards rushing and eight touchdowns and is on pace to become the first Husker to run for 1,000 yards three times in his career. The Alabama native also has Mike Rozier's career rushing mark of 4,780 yards in his sights.

As for the battery packs, Abdullah said he prefers to be considered for awards based on what he puts on film.

"I just pride myself on my production every Saturday," Abdullah said.

As for how much consideration the running back should get for the Heisman Trophy, Abdullah is currently second among FBS players in rushing yardage, and has already put together a few highlight reel plays in his senior campaign.

Pelini, for his part, thinks Abdullah should be firmly in the running for college football's top honor.

"Anybody who pays attention, I'm sure has him in the top five," Pelini said. "You have to not be paying attention to not recognize the type of year he's having. That's my opinion, but I'm a little biased."

Even if he doesn't become the fourth Husker to be awarded the Heisman Trophy, the performances he has put together, and the way he has represented the program over the last four years should be appreciated.

"One thing about Ameer is that you know what you're going to get every week," Pelini said. "You know how he's wired and the type of competitor he is. He's a tremendous competitor. He really is." **N**

Read daily Husker reports from

Michael Bruntz at

HuskersIllustrated.com

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Scouting Report



Michigan State Spartans

Highly-ranked Spartans look to defend home turf against unbeaten Nebraska. | DOUG GRIFFITHS

Everyone circled Michigan State's early showdown with Oregon as a must win for the Spartans if they wanted to be included in the four-team college football playoff at season's end.

Michigan State lost that game, but it's easy to see how the Spartans can certainly be right in the thick of that four-

team conversation if they run the table and finish with their only loss being in Eugene.

Michigan State could very well finish with just one regular-season loss, too, when you consider their most difficult games are in Spartan Stadium, where the Spartans are awfully difficult to beat.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

Quarterback Connor Cook is completing 69 percent of his passes this season with nine touchdown passes and two interceptions.

THE VITALS

WHAT: #21 Nebraska @ #9 Michigan State

WHEN/WHERE: 7 p.m. CDT, Oct. 4, East Lansing (Spartan Stadium capacity 75,005)

TV: ABC

Radio: The Husker Sports Network broadcasts the action to 27 statewide radio markets. KFAB (1110 AM) serves as the Omaha affiliate and KLIN (1400 AM) serves as the Lincoln affiliate, while KRVN (880 AM) is a third affiliate that reaches around the state. Join Greg Sharpe (play-by-play), Matt Davison (color and co-hosts Husker Game Day Pregame Show), Lane Grindle (sideline/post-game, co-hosts Husker Game Day), Steve Taylor (co-hosts Husker Game Day Show and Big Red Reaction Show) and Matt Coatney (hosts Big Red Reaction Show and helps anchor postgame studio coverage) for all the action. The game can also be heard live on Huskers.com and SIRIUS Satellite Radio.

COACHES: Nebraska: Bo Pelini (63-24 overall, 35-14 in the Big Ten, seven seasons). Michigan State: Mark Dantonio (67-30 overall, 38-18 in the Big Ten, eight seasons).

SERIES: Nebraska leads 7-1

MICHIGAN STATE FAST FACTS

Location: East Lansing, Mich.

Enrollment: 48,579

All-Time Football Record: 661-438-44

All-Time Big Ten Record: 251-200-9

Conference Championships: 8 (last 2013)

Post-Season Record: 10-14

Consensus All-Americans: 31

First-Team All-Big Ten Selections: 162

Lettermen Returning/Lost: 48/20

Starters Returning/Lost: 14/10 (including specialists)

Offensive Formation: Multiple

Defensive Formation: Multiple 4-3

DID YOU KNOW?

The Spartans have scored 174 points in three home games this season.

2014 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 29	Jacksonville State	W, 45-7
Sept. 6	@ Oregon	L, 27-46
Sept. 20	Eastern Michigan	W, 73-14
Sept. 27	Wyoming	W, 56-14
Oct. 4	Nebraska	
Oct. 11	@ Purdue	
Oct. 18	@ Indiana	
Oct. 25	Michigan	
Nov. 8	Ohio State	
Nov. 15	@ Maryland	
Nov. 22	Rutgers	
Nov. 29	@ Penn State	



EXPLOSIVE OFFENSE

Michigan State's offense is the most potent in the Big Ten and one of the best production wise in the country.

In three of the Spartans' four games this season, MSU has scored 45 or more points.

One of the things that makes the Spartan offense so tough is their balance.

This is an offense that has already gained more than 1,000 yards rushing and thrown for more than 1,000 yards. The offensive weapons are many, including junior quarterback Connor Cook, who is 15-2 as the Spartans' starting signal caller.

TOUGH AT HOME

The Spartans are 41-11 under head coach Mark Dantonio in Spartan Stadium, including a 16-game winning streak.

Last season Michigan State completed its 19th undefeated home season in Spartan Stadium history with a 7-0 mark.

SIMPLY THE BEST

Michigan State's defense is once again one of the best in the country this season.

It ranks among the very best in total defense and rushing defense.

In each of the past three seasons, the Spartans have led the Big Ten in total defense and rushing defense.

QUITE A RUN

Since 2010, Michigan State has won 45 games to rank among the top 10 in FBS teams, a mark which is the best in the Big Ten.

The Spartans have posted four consecutive winning seasons, something the program hasn't done since recording six in a row from 1985-90.

Dating back to the beginning of the 2010 season, Michigan State has won 45 of its last 58 games. In addition, the Spartans have won 18 of their last 20 games.

REMEMBER WHEN?

No. 14 Michigan State 41, Nebraska 28

Nov. 16, 2013 at Lincoln, Nebraska

Nebraska helped Michigan State out by turning the ball over five times helping the Spartans all but lock up a spot in the Big Ten Championship Game.

Michigan State converted those five

turnovers into 24 points. Spartan running back Jeremy Langford ran 32 times for 151 yards and score two touchdowns.

It was Michigan State's first win over the Nebraska in the series. Husker running back Ameer Abdullah rushed for 123 yards, marking the seventh straight time he eclipsed the century mark.

Nebraska ran for 182 yards and gained 392 total yards, which were season highs for Michigan State's defense. MSU's defense entered the game allowing an average of 43 yards rushing and 210 total.

LAST TIME OUT

Michigan State 56, Wyoming 14

Sept. 27, 2014 at East Lansing, Mich.

Michigan State's offense continued to roll, scoring 42 first-half points to help the Green and White cruise to an easy home victory over the Cowboys.

The Spartans used 10 different ball carriers to gain 338 yards on the ground.

Michigan State gained 533 total yards as quarterback Connor Cook only threw 12 passes, completing eight for 126 yards and two scores. Keith Mumphery became the first Michigan State receiver with a rushing score and a receiving score in the same game since 2011 (Keshawn Martin).

MSU's defense held Wyoming to 286 yards of offense and forced two fumbles and an interception.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Michigan State has scored more than 50 points in back-to-back games for the first time since 1978.

- Since 2011, Michigan State's defense has been one of the most consistent in the FBS. The Spartans are one of just three schools, along with Alabama and Florida State, to rank among the FBS top six in total defense the past three seasons.

- Since the beginning of the 2010 season, Michigan State's defense has held 17 opponents to less than 10 points, including six times in 2013.

- In the last two games, Michigan State has forced a total of nine turnovers.

- Overall, the Spartans returned 97 percent of their total offense from a year ago, 99 percent of their rushing yards and 79 percent of their receiving yards.

Coach Mark Dantonio



Resume: Is 85-47 in 11 seasons as a collegiate head coach, including a stellar 67-30 record in eight

seasons guiding the Spartans. Dantonio's Michigan State teams are 38-18 in the Big Ten. Prior to taking over the Spartan program, Dantonio was Cincinnati's head coach. He also served as Ohio State's defensive coordinator and had coaching stints at Ohio, Purdue, Youngstown State, Kansas and was an assistant coach at Michigan State, too.

KNOW YOUR FOE

Connor Cook, QB, 6-4, 218, Jr.



Continues to be one of the Big Ten's best and one of college football's finest in passing efficiency. He's among the Big Ten leaders in passing and touchdown passes as well as completion percentage.

Jeremy Langford, RB, 6-1, 208, Sr.



Is averaging 5.5 yards per carry this season having gained 340 yards total with three touchdowns. He rushed for a season-high 137 yards against Wyoming.

Marcus Rush, DE, 6-3, 261, Sr.



Fifth-year senior is in his fourth year as a starting defensive end who is second on the team in tackles with 17, including 4.5 tackles for loss and 2.5 sacks. He has started in 44 of his 45 career games.

2013 RESULTS

(13-1 overall, 8-0 Big Ten)

Date	Opponent	Result
Aug. 30	Western Michigan	W, 26-13
Sept. 7	South Florida	W, 21-6
Sept. 14	Youngstown State	W, 55-17
Sept. 21	@ Notre Dame	L, 13-17
Oct. 5	@ Iowa	W, 26-14
Oct. 12	Indiana	W, 42-28
Oct. 19	Purdue	W, 14-0
Oct. 26	@ Illinois	W, 42-3
Nov. 2	Michigan	W, 29-6
Nov. 16	@ Nebraska	W, 41-28
Nov. 23	@ Northwestern	W, 30-6
Nov. 30	Minnesota	W, 14-3
Dec. 7	Ohio State*	W, 34-24
Jan. 1	Stanford!	W, 24-20

*Big Ten Championship Lucas Oil Stadium (Indianapolis)

!Rose Bowl (Pasadena, Calif.)

BIGTEN BEAT | COMPILED BY DOUG GRIFFITHS

Wolverines Continue Nose Dive, Northwestern upsets Penn State



Nate Gerry (25) and the rest of the Huskers come out of the Tunnel Walk against Illinois

The hot seat under Michigan head coach Brady Hoke is more than sizzling.

The Wolverines' struggles continued with another lopsided home loss on Saturday.

As a result, Michigan is 2-3 on the season with its lone wins coming against FCS Appalachian State and Miami (Ohio).

Furthermore the Wolverines have never lost three times before October in 135 years of playing college football.

Michigan's loss to Minnesota was just its second to the Golden Gophers since 1986, which provided the anti-Hoke contingent even more fuel for their fire to call for the head coach's head.

Afterwards, NBCSports.com wrote, "This is the end, Brady Hoke, the end.

"There is no where else for Hoke to

turn. The Wolverines are 2-3 and their record indicates exactly the level of football program they are at the moment. That's a direct reflection on its coaching staff."

ESPN's Travis Haney tweeted, "Did I say last week that Brady Hoke wouldn't last until December? Surviving October would now require a miracle – or idiocy."

It's hard to believe that this is the same coach that led the Wolverines to an 11-2 season in his inaugural year in Ann Arbor.

Hoke isn't the only one who some Michigan faithful want held accountable. The Michigan Stadium crowd of 102,926 chanted to remove Hoke as well as athletic director Dave Brandon. They booed the play calling and even when the attendance was announced, hoping the figure announced would be below the 100,000 mark,

EAST DIVISION

2014 Standings

Team	Overall	Conference
Maryland	4-1	1-0
Penn State	4-1	1-1
Ohio State	3-1	0-0
Michigan State	3-1	0-0
Michigan	2-3	0-1
Rutgers	4-1	0-1
Indiana	2-2	0-1

WEST DIVISION

Team	Overall	Conference
Nebraska	5-0	1-0
Iowa	4-1	1-0
Northwestern	2-2	1-0
Minnesota	4-1	1-0
Wisconsin	3-1	0-0
Illinois	3-2	0-1
Purdue	2-3	0-1

Sept. 27 Results

Nebraska 45, Illinois 14
Michigan State 56, Wyoming 14
Wisconsin 27, South Florida 10
Iowa 24, Purdue 10
Northwestern 29, Penn State 6
Maryland 37, Indiana 15
Minnesota 30, Michigan 14
Ohio State 50, Cincinnati 28
Rutgers 31, Tulane 6

Oct. 4 Results

Nebraska @ Michigan State 7 p.m.
Ohio State @ Maryland, 11 a.m.
Purdue @ Illinois, 11 a.m.
North Texas @ Indiana, 1:30 p.m.
Wisconsin @ Northwestern, 2:30 p.m.
Michigan @ Rutgers, 6 p.m.
Penn State, Iowa, Minnesota IDLE

All times CT

which be an embarrassment in itself for Michigan's massive home crowds.

Following *Huskers Illustrated* recaps Week Five of football happenings around the Big Ten.

EAST DIVISION

INDIANA HOOSIERS

IU once again showed the inconsistency that has hindered its program for so many years by following up its upset at Missouri by getting blown out at home by Maryland.

The Terrapins dominated the high-powered Hoosier offense.

"Just got our butts whipped," IU head coach Kevin Wilson said afterwards.

Wilson said his team was beaten in every facet.

"Coaching and everything," he said.

Hoosier quarterback Nate Sudfeld was 14-of-37 passing for 126 yards.

"He's got to play better," Wilson said. "But at the same time, as a team, the offense let him down more than anything he did, I'm pretty sure. And as coaches, we let him down."

MARYLAND TERRAPINS

Maryland was more than impressive in winning its first Big Ten game, on the road against Indiana.

The Terrapins overcame some key injuries, including to starting quarterback C.J. Brown to run their record to 4-1.

Brown was sidelined in the second quarter after spraining his left wrist.

Brown's replacement, Caleb Rowe, was better than good. He threw for 198 yards, completing 12-of-18 passes for two second-half touchdowns.

Maryland's defense played its best game of the season, despite not having three starters due to injuries.

The defense nearly kept IU out of the end zone and limited the nation's leading rusher Tevin Coleman to 22 carries for 122 yards, more than 75 yards below his average.

MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

The Spartans completed their most explosive first four games in school history with a 50.3-point average, scoring 56

against visiting Wyoming.

"Very impressive start of the game by our offense," MSU head coach Mark Dantonio said. "Really, the first six drives, every drive in the first half, resulted in a touchdown. You have 42 in the first half, tough to overcome that."

Defensively the Spartans generated three turnovers and blocked a kick.

MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

Against Minnesota, Michigan went with quarterback Shane Morris instead of Devin Gardner and it didn't help the Wolverines' struggling offense.

Morris finished just 7-of-19 for 49 yards passing and when he was pulled from the game in the fourth quarter he was noticeably limping with an injured ankle.

Michigan's offense gained only 171 total yards as the Wolverines have a ton of problems and don't seem to have any answers.

RUTGERS SCARLET KNIGHTS

The Scarlet Knights continued their winning ways this season with a victory over visiting Tulane.

Rutgers quarterback Gary Nova threw four touchdown passes and finished with 291 yards passing.

Nova completed all nine of his first-half passes for 195 yards.

The hosts led 21-0 after their first three drives.

Rutgers' schedule gets a lot tougher as dates against Michigan, Ohio State, Nebraska and Wisconsin dot the landscape over the next five weeks.

OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

There was good and bad for the Buckeyes against Cincinnati in Columbus.

Head coach Urban Meyer loved what he saw from his offense, but was extremely unhappy with his team's pass defense.

Buckeye quarterback J.T. Barrett threw for 330 yards and four touchdowns and Ezekiel Elliott ran for 182 yards and a score.

Bearcat quarterback Gunner Kiel threw for 352 yards and four touchdowns.

"Defensively, we're back to the drawing board in pass coverage," said Meyer, whose team racked up 710 yards.

The win was Ohio State's 40th straight over an in-state opponent.

PENN STATE NITTANY LIONS

Penn State was stunned at home by Northwestern.

The story was the Nittany Lions inability to generate any offense.

They had just 50 yards rushing and quarterback Christian Hackenberg really struggled with his accuracy, completing just 22-of-45 passes for 216 yards.

WEST DIVISION

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

The Illini started Reilly O'Toole at quarterback in place of Wes Lunt against Nebraska.

O'Toole was 17 for 38 for 261 yards with one touchdown. He was intercepted three times.

Leading rusher Josh Ferguson was held to 61 yards on 11 carries.

The Illini face a very important home game next as Purdue comes to town. That game is a must win if Illinois wants to have a realistic shot at becoming bowl eligible this season, especially when looking at its remaining schedule.

IOWA HAWKEYES

The Hawkeyes rallied from an early 10-point deficit at Purdue, but dominated the final 49 minutes.

Iowa accumulated 420 yards (245 passing, 175 rushing).

It took a 17-10 lead late in the third quarter and sealed the game when running back Mark Weismann scored on a five-yard run in the fourth quarter with just over five minutes to go.

Iowa's defense allowed 74 yards in the first quarter, but only gave up 82 after that.

MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

Gopher tailback David Cobb had a game to remember in the Big House, rushing for 183 yards, including 111 yards in the first half.

Minnesota's offensive line dominated

How Nebraska's 2014 Opponents Fared?



FLORIDA ATLANTIC
Result: W, UT San Antonio 41-37
Up Next: Florida International
Current Record: 2-3



MCNEESE STATE
Result: W, Arkansas Tech 61-7
Up Next: Nicholls
Record: 2-1



FRESNO STATE
Result: W, New Mexico 35-24
Up Next: San Diego State
Record: 2-3



MIAMI
Result: W, Duke 22-10
Up Next: Georgia Tech
Record: 3-2



ILLINOIS
Result: L, Nebraska 45-14
Up Next: Purdue
Current Record: 3-2



MICHIGAN STATE
Result: W, Wyoming 56-14
Up Next: Nebraska
Record: 3-1



NORTHWESTERN
Result: W, Penn State 29-6
Up Next: Wisconsin
Record: 2-2



RUTGERS
Result: W, Tulane 31-6
Up Next: Michigan
Record: 4-1



PURDUE
Result: L, Iowa 24-10
Up Next: Illinois
Current Record: 2-3



WISCONSIN
Result: W, South Florida 27-10
Up Next: Northwestern
Record: 3-1



MINNESOTA
Result: W, Michigan 24-7
Up Next: Northwestern
Record: 3-1



IOWA
Result: W, Purdue 24-10
Up Next: Indiana
Record: 4-1

WEST



BIG TEN

EAST



Michigan's front, helping its rushing attack gain 206 yards on 47 carries.

NORTHWESTERN WILDCATS

The Wildcats showed a pulse and a lot more in Happy Valley, posting the biggest upset in the Big Ten so far this season. Quarterback Trevor Siemian ran for three touchdowns and threw for 258 yards in the win over the Nittany Lions.

Siemian was 21-of-37 through the air. He guided a ball-control, balanced offense.

PURDUE BOILERMAKERS

The Boilermakers have lost nine straight Big Ten games for the first time in nearly a century thanks to their home loss to Iowa. Look for the losing to continue, too, unless Purdue can get some production from its offense.

Quarterback Danny Etling threw for just 61 yards, completing 11-of-26 pass-

es. Etling was sacked three times in the first half. Purdue has no offensive identity whatsoever. It is getting little through the air and little on the ground (84 yards rushing).

The Boilermakers' lone touchdown came on strong safety Frankie Williams' 39-yard interception return for a touchdown in the first quarter.

WISCONSIN BADGERS

The Badgers relied heavily on running back Melvin Gordon and he delivered.

Gordon rushed for 181 yards on 32 carries and a pair of touchdowns against South Florida.

As Wisconsin now eyes its Big Ten season, head coach Gary Andersen knows his team must pick it up on offense.

"It just felt like we were leaving opportunities out there on the field," Andersen said.



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Huskers Illustrated's Projected Nebraska Depth Chart

DEFENSE

P/Holder

Sam Foltz
Johnny Stanton

FS

Nate Gerry
Zach Stovall

SS

Corey Cooper
Anthony Ridder

NICKEL

Byerson Cockrell
Josh Kalu

LS

Josh Faulkenberry
Paul Kelly

PR

DeMornay Pierson-El
Kenny Bell

WILL

Zaire Anderson
Courtney Love

MIKE

Josh Banderas
Trevor Roach

BUCK

David Santos
Austin Williams

CB

Jonathan Rose
Daniel Davie

WDE

Randy Gregory
Jack Gangwish

NT

Vincent Valentine
Kevin Maurice

DT

Maliek Collins
Kevin Williams

SDE

Greg McMullen
Marcus Newby

CB

Josh Mitchell
Chris Jones

WRX

Kenny Bell
Lane Hovey

LT

Alex Lewis
David Knevel

LG

Jake Cotton
Chongo Kondolo

C

Mark Pelini
Givens Price

RG

Mike Moudy
Givens Price

RT

Zach Sterup
Givens Price

TE

Cethan Carter
Sam Cotton

WRZ

Alonzo Moore
Taariq Allen

WRA

Jordan Westerkamp
Lane Hovey

KOS

Drew Brown
Spencer Lindsay

QB

Tommy Armstrong Jr.
Ryker Fyfe

IB

Ameer Abdullah
Imani Cross

KR

Kenny Bell
Alonzo Moore

PK

Drew Brown
Spencer Lindsay

FB

Andy Janovich
Mitch McCann

OFFENSE



Darren Ivy
(2-5, 15-20)



Mike Schaefer
(6-1, 25-10)



Michael Bruntz
(4-3, 22-13)



Bob Hamar
(4-3, 20-15)



Terry Douglass
(3-4, 21-14)



Doug Griffiths
(4-3, 22-13)



Lanny Holstein
(2-5, 24-11)

Last Week, Season

Nebraska vs. Michigan State	NU 31-21	MSU 24-20	MSU 24-20	NU 24-23	MSU 24-21	MSU 28-21	MSU 31-28
Alabama vs. Ole Miss	Alabama	Ole Miss	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama
Texas A&M vs. Mississippi State	MSU	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	MSU	MSU	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
USC vs. Arizona State	ASU	USC	ASU	USC	USC	USC	ASU
Notre Dame vs. Stanford	Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford	Notre Dame	Stanford
Miami vs. Georgia Tech	Miami	Georgia Tech	Miami	Miami	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech	Georgia Tech
LSU vs. Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	LSU	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	LSU



NORTHWEST ELKHORN

49 miles

Trevor Roach comes up big against Miami



NEBRASKA LINEBACKER TREVOR ROACH FOUND HIMSELF IN THE MIDST OF A STRUGGLE MIDWAY THROUGH HIS TEAM'S GAME WITH MIAMI A FEW WEEKS AGO. AS A BACKUP, HE HAD PRACTICED THE SCHEMES ALL WEEK BUT WASN'T EXPECTING TO GET INTO THE GAME.

Starting middle linebacker Josh Banderas wasn't playing up to his potential, getting gashed by Miami running back Duke Johnson and missing tackles, so the coaches decided to make a change. Enter Roach.

It had happened to him once before – as a freshman, Roach got extensive playing time due to an injury to Will Compton – but this time it was against Miami. Luckily for Roach, he didn't have much time to psyche himself out.

"You have to be ready," Roach said. "It was half-way through the game so nerves don't really set in at that point, but before the game, yeah, I would have been nervous. When you have already been playing a little while you don't really worry about that."

Roach stayed in the rest of the game, and as fortune would have it, he found himself in position for a huge play in the third quarter. Coming up on a run stop, he took a shot at changing the game.

"Basically I read it, it wasn't even my gap, and I kind of went to try and make the tackle," Roach said of a play Husker fans will have good memories from. "They kind of had (Johnson) wrapped up, so I was just like, 'I'll try to reach for the ball.'"

He did and punched it out, the ball squirming loosely along the line of scrimmage away from the scrum.

"I actually didn't think I had got it," Roach said. "I saw the ball pop out and thought about diving for it. It's a good thing I didn't because J. Mitch (Josh Mitchell) picked it up and scored."

The play resulted in a 57-yard fumble return for a touchdown and extended Nebraska's lead to 10 points at a critical point. It appeared Miami might have the momentum in its back pocket, and Roach flipped it on its head with one small poke.

It's the kind of thing he's been doing in practice all these years. It's the reason the coaching staff trusted him in a critical point of a critical game: Roach is making a name for himself as Mr. Consistency.

"I'd say I just don't get too flustered," the linebacker said. "I make a mistake, I just forget about it and move on. That's the key, you see a lot of times people make a mistake and they just let it keep riding and it gets to them."

The decision to put Roach in turned out well, but it was a curious one at the time. The speedy Miami backfield was giving Banderas, David Santos and Zaire Anderson enough trouble as it was, and Roach isn't exactly a great matchup with a bunch of speed demons.

"That kind of speed, no," he said. "They were pretty fast. Personally I like people who are more of power running backs and try to run through you. People like Ameer (Abdullah) are so hard to tackle because you just go to get your hands on them. Just getting to them is a challenge in itself."

Regardless of the matchup issues, Roach came up big, and the coaches will appreciate that, or so he hopes. The walk-on is hoping to compete for a starting spot the rest of the season.

"We'll see what happens tomorrow," he said.

~ Story by Lanny Holstein



Elkhorn, Neb. Population: 10,000 at
2007 Annexation by Omaha
Distance from Lincoln: 49 miles

TREVOR ROACH FILE

Birthdate: March 6, 1992
Height: 6-2 | Weight: 235
Position: Linebacker

Trevor Roach makes a tackle on Miami's Duke Johnson. He later caused Johnson to fumble, which was picked up by Josh Mitchell and returned 57 yards for a touchdown.



Joe Mixan/Huskers Illustrated

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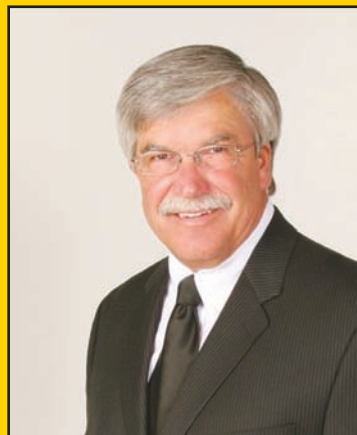
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MLS.

Catching up with **JIM MCFARLAND**

Tight End 1967-69

By Butch Rasmussen/Huskers Illustrated

Kerplunk! The Ham sandwich hit the wall of the visitor's locker room at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. It was 1969 and the Kansas Jayhawks were in town for a Big 8 Conference football game versus the Huskers.

The Jayhawks held the lead 17-14 late into the fourth quarter when they were flagged for a pass interference penalty when a Kansas defender and Husker tight end Jim McFarland fell to the ground, as the ball sailed over their heads. This brought Kansas coach Pepper Rogers onto the field in protest. The call would prove pivotal to the final score of the game.

Rogers was extremely upset over the call as he spoke with reporters after the game. Rogers insisted there was no foul and the sandwich went flying.

McFarland caught over 50 passes as a Husker tight end but seems to be remembered best for the one he didn't catch, the one that brought the flag that day in the Kansas game.

McFarland a walk-on from North Platte became a scholarship player. He earned all-conference and second team All-America recognition, then spent 6 years in the NFL.

Here's McFarland's story on that crucial penalty:

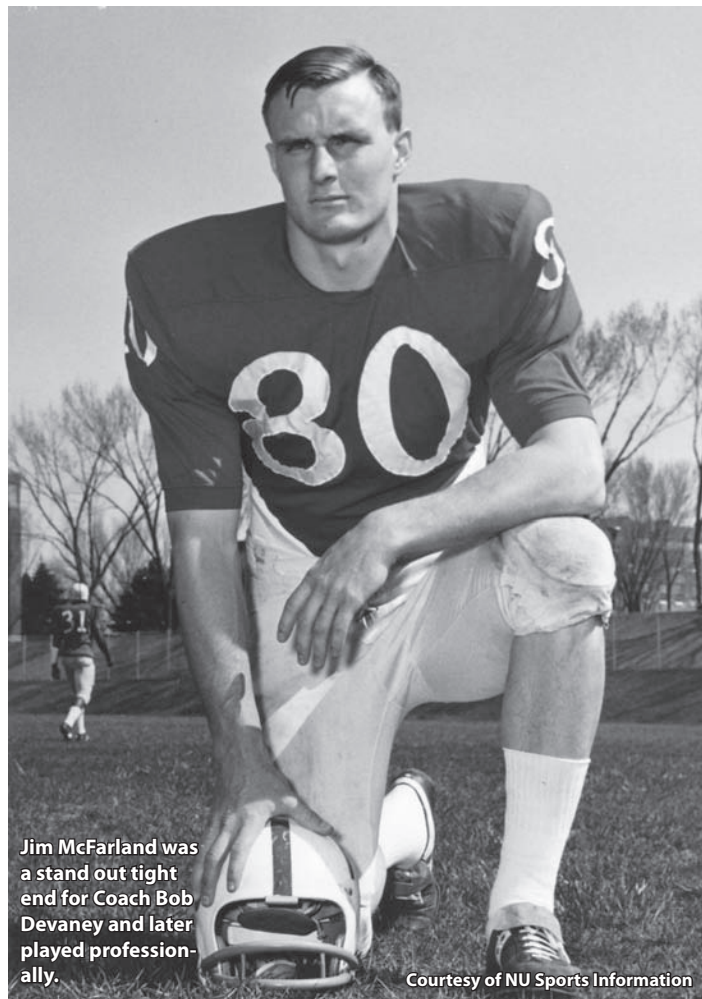
"We were behind 14-17 in the fourth quarter with 4:27 left in the game. From our own 37 yard line it was 4th and 16. We needed that first down. Jerry Tagge called the play and I was the primary receiver.

"Tagge threw the ball in my direction. The pass was over my head so I dove for the ball and intentionally bumped the defensive back running beside me. We both went down and the play drew a flag against the Kansas defender for knocking me down when I was the one who knocked him down."

Nebraska had the ball on the 32 yard line and scored 4 plays later to win the game in the final minute or so. That play was significant because it started NU's streak of 32 consecutive games without a loss and two national championships.

Toward season's end McFarland found himself in coach Bob Devaney's dog house.

After the 1969 season, Nebraska had offers from the



Jim McFarland was a stand out tight end for Coach Bob Devaney and later played professionally.

Courtesy of NU Sports Information

Liberty Bowl and the Sun Bowl when Devaney took a phone call. Guess who? It was "Bear" Bryant, Alabama coach, wanting to meet the Huskers in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis,

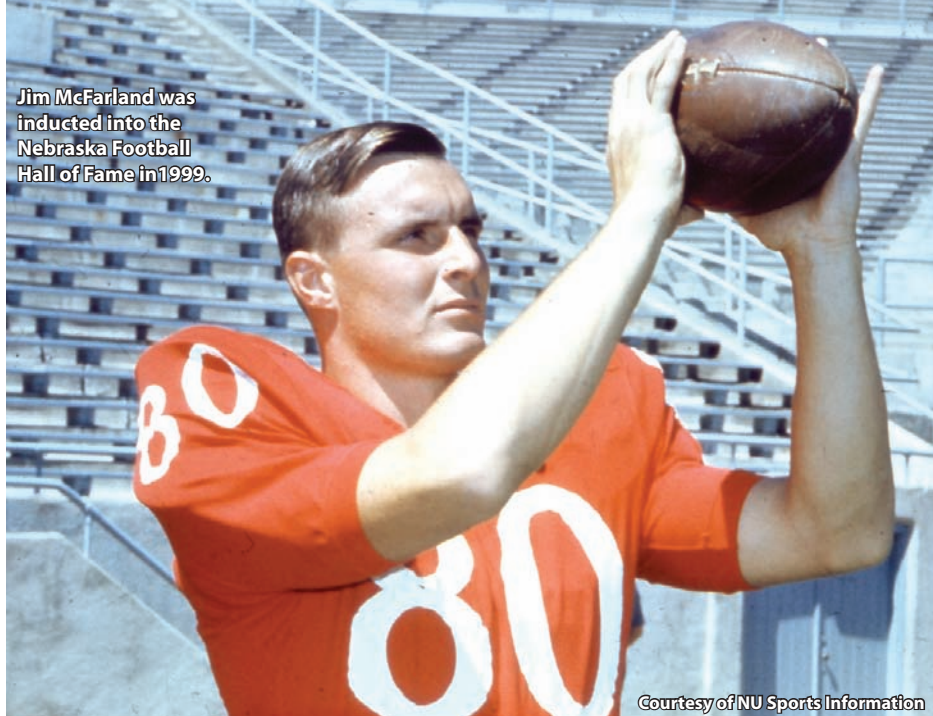
According to McFarland the 1969 Huskers had been promised a coveted spot in the Gator Bowl in Orlando if they beat Oklahoma in their last game of the season. Final score: Nebraska 44, Oklahoma 14. Gator Bowl bound?

Not exactly.

Tennessee, planned to meet Missouri in the Orange Bowl but took a beating in their season finale and were pushed out of the Orange Bowl only to bump Nebraska out of the opportunity of playing in Gator country and the domino effect came into play..

The Huskers finally were offered spots in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis against Alabama or the Sun Bowl in El

Jim McFarland was inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame in 1999.



Courtesy of NU Sports Information

Paso playing Georgia.

In a team meeting Husker players were rather indecisive. Some players preferred the Sun Bowl, some preferred the

Liberty Bowl and some including McFarland wanted no bowl at all. Devaney felt the hand count was inconclusive and decided to decline the invitations to both

bowls. Devaney left the room and co-captain Mike Green suggested the team discuss the subject further.

That discussion resulted in a commitment to the Sun Bowl and McFarland was invited into Devaney's office. Coach wanted to know why McFarland was opposed to a bowl game. McFarland said the team had nothing to gain and everything to lose. He said there were too many players concerned about the number and length of practices and felt those players were not truly committed to winning a bowl game.

The trip, however, was made, the game played and McFarland says it was a truly enjoyable week, made better by a victory over Georgia 45-6

Today McFarland is a practicing attorney in Lincoln where he resides with his wife, Kimberly. He's served on the board of the NFL players association and has been active in dealings between NFL players and owners.

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Iron N works to enhance student presence at games

By Darren Ivy

Huskers Illustrated

Being one of the biggest cheerleaders for Nebraska sports programs is not how sophomore Bailey Thomas would have envisioned her college days going when she was a child growing up in Parker, Colorado.

At that point in time, Thomas was an avid Colorado Buffaloes fan.

However, she had some wise friends who talked her into going to a couple Nebraska football games and her conversion was completed by deciding to enroll in Lincoln for college.

Once on campus, Thomas signed up to be a part of the Iron N group that is in charge of promoting school spirit at athletic events.

"It was the first group I signed up for when I got to Nebraska," Thomas said. "I had heard about the Iron N a little bit while I was a senior in high school. I started following them on Twitter. I always like being loud at sporting events so it was fitting that I joined Iron N."

Thomas said she still gets grief from her high school friends for leaving Colorado.

But she's glad she now bleeds Husker red.

As a the student leader of the Iron N for women's basketball, Thomas was active last season not only in helping plan student support for women's basketball but for all sports.

Steve Dosskey is the current president of the Iron N and each sport has its own leader. The group as a whole wants more students to come and be loud at all Nebraska games, especially football.

"We've been pulling our hair out trying to figure out to keep the student section full," Thomas said.

One of the things the Iron N had been planning for more than a year that finally came to fruition was a large banner for the student section at football games.

Before the Miami game when the Hurricanes came onto the field, the Nebraska student body unveiled its hand-painted 55-foot by 60-foot blackshirt banner.

The first banner went up that said "Welcome UM. The students then ripped the UM apart and unveiled the "Welcome to Your Worst Nightmare" along with the cross bones. It received national recognition on ESPN2.

"We were running up and down trying to coordinate the people with the messages on the PVC pipe," Dosskey told the *Daily Nebraskan*.

The Iron N brought out the banner again for the Illinois game and hopes to make it a pre-game tradition.

"We try to get the whole South Stadium involved in everything we do," said Thomas, who was in the second row for the Miami game. "We try to get the front rowdy so that everyone gets involved all the way up to the top. We set a standard for ourselves during the Miami game. Now we have to set a standard to beat each week."



Bailey Thomas, second from right below, poses with other members of the Iron N after the Illinois game. The group made the hand-painted banner that is now displayed in the student section each game.

Eric Bertrand/Daily Nebraskan



Courtesy Photo

Oct. 5, 1963

With the exception of a 70-yard touchdown run by Iowa State's on a fake punt late in the first half, Nebraska was in control during a 21-7 win over the Cyclones at Lincoln. Bobby Hohn's 1-yard TD run gave the Cornhuskers a 7-0 first-quarter lead and Dennis Claridge had scoring runs of 4 and 3 yards in the second half to help NU pull away as it limited ISU to 42 yards of total offense in the second half.

Oct. 6, 1979

I-back Jarvis Redwine made his first start at Nebraska a memorable one, rushing for 120 yards and a TD on just 16 attempts as the No. 5-ranked Huskers dominated New Mexico State 57-0 at Memorial Stadium. NU piled up 569 yards of total offense, while limiting the Aggies to 88 yards rushing. Quarterback Jeff Quinn finished 7-of-11 passing for 123 yards, including a 43-yard first-quarter scoring pass to tight end Junior Miller as the Huskers built a 31-0 halftime lead. Kim Baker led the Blackshirts with 11 tackles.

Oct. 7, 1989

Three different Nebraska quarterbacks threw TD passes as the fourth-ranked Huskers trounced Kansas State 58-7 at Memorial Stadium. Gerry Gdowski (pictured right on the cover of Huskers Illustrated in 1989), Mickey Joseph and Mike Grant all had scoring passes for NU, which also got a 166-yard rushing performance from I-back Ken Clark. Paul Brungardt had two sacks and Pat Tyrance registered six total tackles for Nebraska's defense, which limited the Wildcats to just 16 yards rushing and 10 first downs.

Oct. 8, 1994

Forced to go to its No. 3 quarterback in the second half due to injuries suffered by Tommie Frazier (blood clot) and Brook Berringer (partially collapsed lung), No. 2-ranked Nebraska improved to 6-0 as I-back Lawrence Phillips rushed 33 times for 221 yards and three TDs in a 32-3 road victory over Oklahoma State at Stillwater. Sophomore walk-on Matt Turman, took over as the signal-caller following the intermission with the Huskers leading 9-3 and helped his team drive for TDs on two of its first three possessions.

Oct. 9, 1999

Fourth-ranked Nebraska rushed for a season-high 439 yards on its way to a 49-14 victory over Iowa State. The Cyclones came into the contest leading the nation in rushing offense at 328 yards per

game, but was limited to 146 yards by the Blackshirts with ISU's Darren Davis carrying 22 times for 107 yards – nearly 70 below his season average. The Huskers nearly had three I-backs nearly top the 100-yard mark in rushing in Dan Alexander (135 yards), Correll Buckhalter (127) and Dahrran Diedrick (99).

Oct. 10, 1964

A record crowd of 47,874 at Memorial Stadium watched as Nebraska defeated South Carolina 28-6 in a game that included a 41-yard TD run by future Huskers' coach Frank Solich as NU built a 28-0 lead. Dan Reeves, who went on to play for the NFL's Dallas Cowboys and coach Super Bowl teams at Denver and Atlanta, completed 18-of-28 pass attempts for 240 yards for the Gamecocks.

Oct. 11, 2008

After suffering a 52-17 home loss to No. 4-ranked Missouri, Nebraska traveled to Lubbock and battled No. 7 Texas Tech to the wire before falling 37-31 in overtime.

Quarterback Joe Ganz kept the Huskers in the contest, completing 36-of-44 pass attempts for 349 yards and threw two fourth-quarter TDs and ran for another score as the Huskers overcame a 24-10 deficit after three quarters. NU tied the score at 31-31 on Ganz's 17-yard TD pass to Todd Peterson with 29 seconds left in regulation.

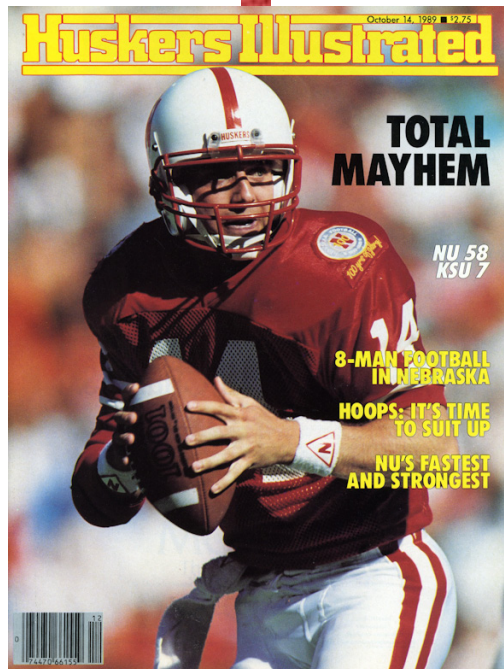
In overtime, Nebraska appeared to catch a break as Texas Tech scored a TD, but had its point-after kick block, opening the door for the Huskers to pull off the upset. However, on NU's second offensive play in OT, Ganz was pressured, attempt to throw the ball away, but was intercepted by Texas Tech's Jamar Wall to end the game.

"I was trying to throw it out of bounds and the guy pulled me down from behind and it went right to the kid," Ganz said of his interception. "It's just a sick feeling to end it like that after we played so hard and so well."

Although the loss dropped Nebraska to 3-3 in Bo Pelini's first season as head coach, the Huskers appeared to gain confidence from their performance against the Red Raiders.

NU closed the season by winning six of its last seven games, including a 26-21 Gator Bowl victory over Clemson, to finish the season 9-4.

"It's a matter of guys need to start believing that now," Peterson said after the OT loss at Texas Tech. "That's been the difference. There are no moral victories – we came in here to win and we can play with these teams. We've got to come out with that attitude."



IN THE RedZone

Alberts highlights best of the Hawkeye State



By Kalani Simpson

Huskies Illustrated

You may or may not have done well in geography in school, but now we're giving you another chance. Husker geography. That's right – this is the perfect subject for tailgate arguments, bar bets or radio drive-time talk shows (you're welcome).

It's time to answer that age-old question: Who is the best all-time Husker

**Husker
Geography
Part 19**

from each state? In the last issue, *Huskies Illustrated* looked at the best players to come out of South Dakota. This week we move on to Iowa. The Tall Corn State. The perfect place for picking up some Cornhuskers. Wait, hold on. What? You say Iowa is officially the Hawkeye State? Well, then it's an even better place to steal prospects from. And Nebraska has.

Some of the greatest Huskers of all time have come from just across the river. Take a look:

IOWA

Trev Alberts

Linebacker/Defensive End, 1990-93

Trev Alberts was the guy who was openly scoffed at by Mel Kiper Jr. on draft day. Then he washed out of the pros after what seemed like a minute and a half (it was actually parts of three injury-riddled, out-of-position seasons). Then he was the guy who argued with Mark May on television, ugh. He had ugly exits with the Indianapolis Colts and ESPN.

And then, of course, Alberts was the vil-

All-Time Greatest Huskers From Each State



lain who got rid of football and wrestling at UNO. So it's easy to remember him for any or all of those things, instead of as one of the 10 best Huskers ever to wear a black shirt.

Alberts invented the position of rush end at Nebraska. And yes, this writer says, Grant Wistrom deserves every accolade he gets. But Alberts was better. In 1993, in leading Nebraska into the national-championship game, he was Suh-good. In a 14-13 nail-biter at UCLA, "He played perhaps the greatest game a defensive player ever played at Nebraska." Who said that? Only Tom Osborne, in his book "On Solid Ground."

It only gets more impressive when you realize the left tackle he kept leaving in the dust that day was Jonathan Ogden, who just went into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Alberts was like that all season. In the national championship game, playing with one arm, he had three sacks. But then the kick went wide, and then the dynasty began, and then Trev gave us a lot of other things we could remember him by. And so, we forgot. You might get an argument on this one, but make it. Trev

Alberts. It's all on YouTube. Look it up.

LaVerne Allers

Offensive Lineman, 1964-66

He was a fullback in high school. But he was also a wrestler. And so, when it came time to move to the offensive line, he knew angles and leverage, and the Huskers led the nation in offense in 1965. He wasn't what we would now think of as big – he wrestled as a Husker at 191 pounds – but he was an All-American.

George Farley

Running Back, 1927-29

The captain, all-conference, wore a giant "N" on his chest.

Roger Craig

IB/FB, 1980-82

His NFL career may yet land him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, but at Nebraska, he was no slouch. Craig had four 100-yards games as a junior, on his way to a 1,000-yard season. He had 234 yards rushing against Florida State – that includes a 94-yard run. And yet he's per-

haps best remembered for being the kind of teammate unselfish enough to move to full-back, to make way for the great Mike Rozier.

Kyle Vanden Bosch

Defensive End, 1997-2000

If Alberts invented the position of rush end at Nebraska, Vanden Bosch upheld the tradition just fine. He burst onto the scene as a freshman and never let up. He blocked kicks. He chased quarterbacks. A two-time lifter of the year. Team captain. Played forever in the pros.

Jamie Williams

Tight End, 1979-82

He had 22 catches in eight games as a junior, then 21 more as a senior – back when those were huge numbers for a tight end. Two-time first-team All-Big 8.

Bill Lewis

C, 1981-85

Another All-American center from Nebraska. This one from just over the river in Sioux City, Iowa.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Nebraska cross country team had a rough day Saturday at the Roy Griak Invitational in St. Paul, Minn. The men's team finished 25th out of 31 teams behind meet champion Southern Utah, while the women's team placed 32nd (35 teams) behind women's champion Michigan State.

Coach Dave Harris was happy with some of the individual performances the Huskers came up with on Saturday, but felt like the team was not fully recovered from last week's Woody Greeno Invitational in Lincoln.

"We did not look fresh today, and I think it has a lot to do with such a quick turnaround from last week's competition to this week's," Harris said. "It is hard to get pushed down like this with a young team, and it is hard to get back up, but we are going to train harder than ever to get back up in the next three weeks."

The coach said he is looking into getting his team recovered faster for future meets.

"Halfway through the race we were not catching people, they were catching us," he said. "I put it on myself, we are going to analyze this and try and get better."

Sophomore Anna Peer had the performance of the day for the Huskers, as she led the women's team placing 39th.

"I was very pleased with Anna, she ran well at a very elite race. She is putting herself up against top competition and not shying away," Harris said. "She is progressing and is getting better, now we need to continue to train because that is what gets her confident."

Sophomore Joe Harter led the way for the men's team. Harter, a Millard West graduate, placed 68th.

SWIMMING & DIVING

Nebraska captured a 73-56 victory in the 11th-annual Alumni Meet. A total of 21 alumni returned to the Devaney Natatorium Saturday morning to witness the current Huskers capture victories in five of the meet's eight events.

Nebraska's 200-yard medley relay team of Cassandra Brassard, Jordan Ehly, Amanda Moran and Aimee Fischer, captured Nebraska's first victory of the day. The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Erin Oeltjen, Katt Sickle, Jacqueline Juffer and Kelly Dunn completed the Huskers' sweep of the relay events.

Taryn Collura and Ehly earned individual victories for Nebraska. Collura captured the 50-yard butterfly, while Ehly swam to a victory in the 50-yard breaststroke. A pair of Nebraska divers earned first-place finishes in the one-meter diving event.

Former Husker Mike Irvin won three events for the third consecutive year, claiming the 50-yard backstroke, 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard individual medley titles. The former All-American has competed in and won at least one event in all 11 alumni meets.

Nebraska open the season Friday, Oct. 3, in Iowa City.

MEN'S GOLF

The Nebraska men's golf team heads to Erie, Colo., for the Mark Simpson Colorado Invitational on Monday and Tuesday.

Colorado National Golf Club, a par-72, 7,771-yard layout, will host the 54-hole tournament. The first 36 holes are set for Monday with a shotgun start, and Tuesday's 18-hole round finishes out the tournament.

An 18-team field, including Air Force, Cal-State Fullerton, Colorado, Denver, Houston Baptist, Loyola-Marymount,

Missouri-Kansas City, McNeese State, Missouri State, Northern Colorado, San Diego, Seattle, Texas-San Antonio, Towson, Utah State, Utah Valley and Wyoming joins Nebraska at the tournament.

Josh Reinertson, Calvin Freeman, Ross Dickson, Niko Vui and Justin Jennings will represent the Big Red in Colorado. Reinertson led the team in its first event of the season, as he tied for 24th at the Gopher Invitational following a final-round 69.

Freeman, Dickson and Jennings will also be making their second start of the season, while Vui, a freshman, is playing in his first collegiate tournament at Nebraska. Vui is the top-ranked player in his native country of Samoa.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Nebraska (4-4-2) and No. 25 Rutgers each scored in the first half, but couldn't break a 1-1 tie the rest of the way at the Nebraska Soccer Field this past Thursday.

Senior Mayme Conroy scored the Huskers' lone goal of the game in the 37th minute off an assist from Jourden Casey. The goal marked Conroy's third of the season as she headed it in from five yards out.

NU's goal came after the Scarlet Knights got on the scoreboard in the 15th minute with a Brianne Reed deflection at the near corner of the box. Nebraska goalkeeper Kelly Schatz didn't give up a goal the rest of the way and compiled seven saves for the game, a new career high.

Schatz earned three of her saves in the second half after one in the first half, and she added two in the first overtime and one in the second overtime to preserve the tie.

Despite the Huskers being outshot in the first half, 4-2, they

responded by taking seven shots in the second half, while the Scarlet Knights took four. Katie Kraeutner and Caroline Gray each had a shot on goal. Conroy took three shots for the game, while Jaycie Johnson and Haley Hanson each took two.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Cassie Deeg and Cassidy Stelzmler each fired final-round 73s to lead the Nebraska women's golf team to a ninth-place finish at the GolfWeek Conference Challenge at the Red Sky Golf Club this past Wednesday.

In addition to the one-over-par rounds from Deeg and Stelzmler, the Huskers got a three-over-par 75 from Jordan Chael and four-over 76 from Emily Gillman to produce a final-round 297 team score. The strong final round moved the Huskers up two spots in the final team standings in the 17-team field.

Chael, a sophomore from Overland Park, Kan., was Nebraska's top individual finisher for the third straight tournament to open the season. She tied for 35th (76-78-75-229) in the 90-player field.

Stelzmler, a junior from Placerville, Calif., added a tie for 42nd (78-80-73-231) while making her first appearance in the Nebraska lineup this season.

Deeg added a tie for 52nd (82-80-73-235), while Gillman tied for 64th (79-82-76-237), making the first lineup appearance of her collegiate career.

Morgan Smejkal rounded out the Husker contingent in a tie for 71st at 239 after settling for a final-round 86. Smejkal had carded the best rounds for the Huskers on both Monday (76) and Tuesday (77).

The Huskers will be back in action in Colorado for the Pioneer Invitational in Denver, Oct. 10-12.

Coaches Corner

with Kerry McDermott
Head Men's Tennis Coach



Huskers Illustrated reporter Lanny Holstein recently visited with NU men's tennis coach Kerry McDermott, who is in his 35th season.

HI: What does the new tennis complex mean for the program?

KM: It's huge for our program. I've been here for 34 years, and it should help us immensely with recruiting. It's been tough over the years because when we were in the Big 12, if a kid goes and visits Texas, Texas A&M or Baylor and saw those facilities and then came to Nebraska, we just didn't have a whole lot to offer in terms of facilities. Now, with the six indoor, six outdoor courts and seating for I think 1,400, it just brings a whole new feel."

HI: Do you think Shawn Eichorst is paying more attention to tennis than past ADs?

KM: I think what's happened, to be honest with you, is that Coach Osborne, when he was about getting ready to leave, wanted to get something done. I think Tennis and maybe Swimming are the two sports that have just not been upgraded over the years. I think he wanted to get that done, and he obviously talked to Shawn. Now it's being carried out."

HI: How long does a tennis facility typically last?

KM: I mean, the facilities will last forever, if you just keep up on the maintenance on them. The problem we have with our facilities right now is that there's no seating, we don't have a bathroom, and we don't have a locker room. It's just basically eight tennis courts and seating for maybe 50 people, so it's never been a place you can showcase to a recruit. It's also been a problem during dual matches. When a kid or a parent has to use the bathroom, they have to go to a port-a-potty across the street or into one of the dorms."

HI: With Boyd Epley introduced as the new strength coach, how does that effect your program?

KM: It's great to have Boyd back. Like I said, I've been around for 34 years, and he was here back when I started. He implemented such a huge program. He's part of the success that a lot of programs, football especially, had. To have him back is good. Tennis-wise, we have our own strength coach, John Pfeiffer, but I think Boyd will probably overlook what he does with our program. It's such an integral part, kids getting bigger and stronger and being able to stay out on the court longer.

HI: So you guys have your own strength coach. What will be Epley's role then?

KM: I'm sure he'll work with John and ask what are the needs of the tennis team. They'll get together, and I think his knowledge will help John and I as a coach with things that might be missing in our program right now. The biggest thing he will do is make some tweaks.

This Week

N

Husker Athletics

Friday, Oct. 3

Swimming & Diving

Iowa & Michigan at Iowa City, Iowa

Volleyball

Penn State at Bob Devaney Sports Center at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 4

Football

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. at 7 p.m.

Swimming & Diving

Iowa & Michigan at Iowa City, Iowa

Men's Golf

Wyoming/Southern Dunes Invite in Maricopa, Ariz.

Women's Rifle

Air Force at Colorado Springs, Colo. at 9 a.m.

Women's Softball

Colorado State at Bowlin Stadium at 11 a.m.
UNO at Bowling Stadium at 1:30 p.m.

Volleyball

Ohio State at Devaney Center at 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 5

Men's Golf

Wyoming/Southern Dunes Invite in Maricopa, Ariz.

Women's Softball

Colorado State at Bowlin Stadium at 11 a.m.
UNO at Bowling Stadium at 4 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. at 12 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 9

Men's Tennis

USTA/ITA Central Regionals at Norman, Okla.

Women's Soccer

Minnesota at Minneapolis at 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 10

Men's Tennis

USTA/ITA Central Regionals at Norman, Okla.

Volleyball

Michigan State at East Lansing, Mich. 7 p.m.

“We have a diamond in the rough at Nebraska in Anna Peer. She is someone I point to and can say, ‘If you work hard, stay consistent in your training, you will really improve on your high school marks.’ I would take five of her if I could get them.”

~ Dave Harris
Nebraska cross country coach



Peer Model

Sophomore runner overcomes health scares to become leader of the pack

Story By Darren Ivy • Photo by Mitch Otto

Nebraska sophomore Anna Peer races to a first-place finish at the Woody Greene Invite earlier this season.

Anna Peer grew up in Iowa, but as a child she never was crazy about eating beef on a regular basis. However, after having an iron deficiency sideline her at the start of her freshman year at Nebraska, the slender sophomore cross country runner has developed a fancy for all kinds of meat at the Athletic Department training table.

"I make sure I get red meat several times a week," Anna said. "I hadn't been a big steak person. I have forced myself to like it. Hamburgers are really good."

With her iron deficiency and loss of hemoglobin behind her, Peer has excelled in her running at Nebraska. She recently became the first Nebraska runner since Lara Crofford in 2010 to win the individual title at the Woody Greeno Cross County Invite at Pioneer's Park in Lincoln.

"I am really excited how things went, my goal was to stay up there at the beginning and relax and see how the pace went," Peer said. "After around the 3k, I kind of had a little bit of a lead and no one was coming with me so I just took off a little and it worked out."

NU head cross country coach Dave Harris said Peer had earned her success.

"We have a diamond in the rough at Nebraska in Anna Peer," Harris said. "She is someone I point to and can say if you work hard, stay consistent in your training, you will really improve on your high school marks. I would take five of her if I could get them."

Harris has been most impressed with Peer's work ethic.

"You've got to train to be good," Harris said. "I think she's talented, but she's not the most talented in the world. She's a trainer. It's paying off and will continue to pay off for her."

Peer was a successful runner in high school at Bettendorf, Iowa, but was struggling with her workouts when she first arrived in Lincoln.

She went through a physical like all NU's athletes do. When Dr. Lonnie Albers drew Peer's blood for the physical, he discovered she had low iron.

"I was eating iron-rich foods and taking iron

supplements and my iron levels weren't going up," Peer said. "That's when we discovered, I had a hole in my stomach and was losing hemoglobin."

Hemoglobin is an iron-rich protein that carries oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body.

"If you don't have energy with iron, you are not able to have the energy to train and compete at the college level," Peer said.

Peer sat out the Woody Greeno Invite and Roy Griak Invite last year while she rebuilt her iron reserves.

"The best athletes are the ones who understand their body," Harris said. "She learned to read her body. She ate right and slept right. She's learned how to train. She was able to get by the stumbling block. Some might have gotten depressed. She overcame it."

Peer returned in time for a meet in South Dakota, the Big Ten Conference Meet and the NCAA regional meet.

"After cross country, I had a good winter of training," Peer said. "I had some amazing races. I couldn't have asked for a better freshman season. I found that the 10K is my true calling. Every race I ran was a new PR (personal record)."

Peer narrowly missed qualifying for the NCAA Championships in the 10K. Being young for her grade, she was eligible to compete in the USA Junior Championships in Eugene, Oregon, last summer. The 10K wasn't offered, so she ran the 5K.

"I knew the top six got medals so I just wanted to see what I could do and see if I could bring home a medal," Peer said. "During the race I was sitting in third place. Then I was in second place, which was amazing, and I ended

up finishing second. It was a great way to cap off an awesome freshman season."

To see where Peer has come is remarkable considering another health scare she had in middle school.

Back in sixth grade, Peer used to have frequent seizures that went undiagnosed for a period of time.

Then one day, she had one in front of her mother, who immediately took her to a hospital in Peoria, Ill.

They discovered Peer had a golf-ball sized tumor in her left frontal lobe of her brain. Doctors performed surgery and Peer was hospitalized for 10 days, but the tumor was fortunately benign.

"It was scary for me and my family," Peer said. "Thankfully, everything went okay. All I am left with is a scar and a metal plate in my head. There has not been any activity. Before I came to Nebraska, I went in for my final check-up, and they gave me the all clear."

The only side effect has been the occasional run-in with airport metal detectors.

"I have been stopped a couple times because the metal plate triggers the alarm," Peer said. "I tell them about the surgery and metal plate and they let me go through."

With all of her medical issues, Peer actually is interested in going to medical school.

"I want to do something with neurology or be a physician's assistant," said Peer, who has been on the academic honor roll at Nebraska.

Peer is looking forward to continued success in cross country, but also isn't taking any chances with her health.

"I can tell if my iron isn't high enough," she said. "Periodically I have blood drawn. I make sure I get enough red meat each week."

Miles making his mark on the recruiting trail

By **Brian Rosenthal**

Huskers Illustrated

Summer is normally a slow time for sports reporters, and when it's a beautiful summer day, they'll likely take advantage.

Golf courses, boats and pools become popular attractions for rest and relaxation before another grinding sports season begins.

Tim Miles is aware of this. It's why the Nebraska men's basketball coach texted one reporter on a quiet Sunday evening.

"I wouldn't head to the lake tomorrow if I were you."

Miles didn't elaborate, because he couldn't. But less than 24 hours later, the importance of his message had become abundantly clear. Nebraska, on Aug. 18, had itself a pretty big recruiting day.

First, Omaha South sophomore Aguek Arop, at a morning news conference at his high school, announced his commitment to Nebraska, roughly one month after Miles offered the 15-year-old a scholarship.

At 6-foot-4 and 182 pounds – and growing – and with a wingspan of 6-9, Arop is projected as a small forward at the college level.

He played a variety of positions this summer for Omaha Elite, which went 39-4 and finished ranked ninth in the country. Arop averaged roughly 15 points and 10 rebounds this spring and summer, rising to the occasion time and again on the big stage. Arop is believed to be the earliest ever commitment to Nebraska, and the fact Miles landed an in-state, high school prospect, especially so early in the recruiting process, made this a banner day.

That was only the beginning.

Only a couple of hours later, coveted Kansas transfer Andrew White ended months of speculation by announcing that he, too, had chosen Nebraska.

That day started an unprecedented surge of recruiting momentum that continued with the commitment of point guard Glynn Watson, a Top 100 recruit in the 2015 recruiting class, and was capped when Nebraska snagged one its prime targets, Chicago Simeon forward Ed Morrow, Jr.

Morrow, the son of former Husker foot-

ball player Ed Morrow, Sr., and former women's basketball player Nafeesah (Brown) Morrow, took an official visit to Nebraska the weekend of the Miami football game and committed that weekend.

Nebraska, which currently has two scholarship openings for its 2015 class, to this point has secured commitments from its main targets. It began with the July commitment of Michael Jacobson, a 6-8, 220-pound forward from Waukee, Iowa.

While not high in the recruiting rankings, the three-star Jacobson, who turned down Ivy League schools Harvard and Princeton, is a cerebral, hard-nosed player with a high

the No. 71-ranked player in the nation for 2015, according to 24/7 Sports. The 5-11, 160-pound Watson, a four-star recruit from Westchester, Illinois, chose the Huskers over Creighton, Tennessee and Purdue, which was the first major school to offer Watson, before his sophomore season.

Recruited by Kenya Hunter, Watson attends Saint Joseph High School and plays for the Illinois Wolves on the AAU circuit. (That program also has 6-10 center Barret Benson, another player Nebraska is recruiting).

Jacobson and Watson will join Nebraska's program at the same time that White will be eligible to play for the Huskers. The 21-year-

old White, who played two seasons at Kansas, must sit out the 2014-15 season per NCAA transfer rules, and will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

A 6-7, 220-pound guard/wing, White is regarded as an outstanding perimeter shooter with strong rebounding skills, and somebody who could fill the spot of wing Terran Petteway – that is, should Petteway declare for the NBA Draft after his junior season. Miles, who compared White to former Kansas star and 15-year NBA veteran Paul Pierce, said White differs from Petteway.

"Andrew is a different type of player because, first of all, he's an unbelievable shooter with great range, and I think he's kind of a hybrid between Shavon (Shields) and Terran," Miles said. "We want to improve his driving ability and his ability to make a one-on-one move or use screen-and-roll."

"Nobody accelerates like Terran, but nobody on our team shoots it like Andrew. Andrew's outside shot can set up other parts of his game that can improve a great deal."

White considered the advantages of continuing his college basketball career closer to his Richmond, Virginia, home. He even took official visits to Richmond and new Big Ten Conference member Maryland before deciding other factors in his decision were more important than distance.

"I'm a little older, and I felt like the 'man' decision would be to go with the best situation for me," White said, "which is at Nebraska."

2014-2015 NEBRASKA BASKETBALL ROSTER

0	Webster, Tai	G	6-4	199	So.
1	White III, Andrew	G	6-7	220	Jr.
2	Rivers, David	F	6-7	200	Sr.
3	Parker, Benny	G	5-9	172	Jr.
5	Petteway, Terran	F	6-6	215	Jr.
10	Menke, Trevor	G	5-11	184	Sr.
11	Smith, Tarin	G	6-2	175	Fr.
12	Abraham, Moses	C	6-9	252	Sr.
21	Smith, Leslee	F	6-8	254	Sr.
23	Fuller, Nick	F	6-7	207	RFr.
24	Hammond, Jake	F	6-10	230	Fr.
30	Day, B.J.	F	6-5	236	Fr.
31	Shields, Shavon	G	6-7	221	Jr.
35	Pitchford, Walter	F	6-10	237	Jr.
44	Kurkowski, Kye	F	6-11	221	Sr.

basketball IQ, fitting the mold for players Miles has historically recruited. To be sure, Jacobson, who also turned down a football scholarship offer from Iowa State, is somebody Nebraska's staff singled out a player it needed and wanted in this recruiting class.

"With their style of play – I've known Coach Miles since his days at North Dakota State – I think it's a really great fit for Michael," said Waukee High School coach Justin Ohl, a former men's basketball assistant coach at Drake.

"His body stands out, his length. He's 6-8 but he's got a big wing span, and the fact he's still young for his age. He doesn't shave yet. He's a very competitive kid, he's hard-nosed. He really fits what Coach Miles has been able to build on throughout this career with that type of individual."

In Watson, Nebraska secured the No. 4-ranked player in the state of Illinois and

10 questions

with *Jalyn Odermann*
Junior Defender



1 Kelly Schatz said you are one of the funniest people on the team because you do goofy stuff when you think no one is looking. What is your response to that?

JO: That is 100 percent spot on. I've even had girl's parents come up to me after the game and say that they just love to watch me during warm-ups because all I'm doing is dancing around. I'm so in the zone, I don't even know I'm doing certain things. They say they love watching me because I'll do all this stuff, but I have no idea they are even watching me. I just like to have a good time and everyone else to have a good time.

3 Why coffee?

JO: Our kitchen is actually coffee themed. I got to college, and Katie really loved coffee, and that was one of the things. We got a Keurig in our room, then slowly but surely, we started realizing how it tasted so great and so good. A big thing that we do is we'll go on coffee dates, or if one of us is getting coffee, we will text the other roommate.

4 That's just between you three roommates or is it a team thing?

JO: I mean, everyone gets jealous because our whole team is coffee addicts. But for the most part, it's easier to know what your roommate's schedule is. Like Caroline (Gray), Sydney (Miramontez) and Jaycie (Johnson) will go out and do something together because they know their schedules.

5 How do you differentiate Caroline Flynn and Caroline Gray?

JO: I first started calling Caroline Flynn Carol, but then it is easier to call all Carolines Carol. Any time they are walking together, I'll say one thing and they will both look, so I have to specifically say "Flynn." Around the house, I just call her Carol, but around soccer, I try to call her Flynn and the other one just Carol.

7 The goalie is in a similar position like that as well. Are you two in communication throughout the game?

JO: It's hard sometime because I'm 40 yards up the field, but any time we're in our own half, she tells me, and I keep relaying that information. I'll even turn around sometimes to make sure she's okay, make sure she's in the right spot. It's a big triangle with me, Kelly (Schatz) and whoever else is at centerback with me.

8 How did you get into soccer?

JO: Well, my mom played basketball in college, so she put me in basketball and I loved that. When I was growing up, I played soccer, lacrosse, softball, volleyball and pretty much every sport. One by one I started to have to make cuts based on what practice was at what time. I think I quit playing basketball my sophomore or junior year of high school. It was kind of hard because I loved sports growing up. I just knew that soccer was that one thing that I loved.

9 How many NU games did you come to as a kid?

JO: "It's kind of hard with parents having work and all that stuff. Game times are a little difficult, and there's about a 50 minute commute, so it would just be a game here and there, maybe a couple per season. The closer I came to coming here, the more I would go to because I was excited.

2 Who are your best friends on the team? How did that start?

JO: Probably my roommates, Caroline Flynn and Katie Kraeutner. I roomed with Katie my freshman year in the dorms, so we've been there the whole time. Flynn was on my club team for a while, so we all got a house together. We are the best friends that anyone could have. We get along with each other, are on the same page and are all obsessed with coffee.

6 What's your job description as a defender?

JO: My coach always likes to say that it's the quarterback of the team. I can see everything on the field, and I can see it all in front of me, so a lot of players rely on me to communicate with them. In essence, I'm telling people where to go and to watch their right, watch their left. It's kind of like the quarterback because I'm calling a lot of the shots.

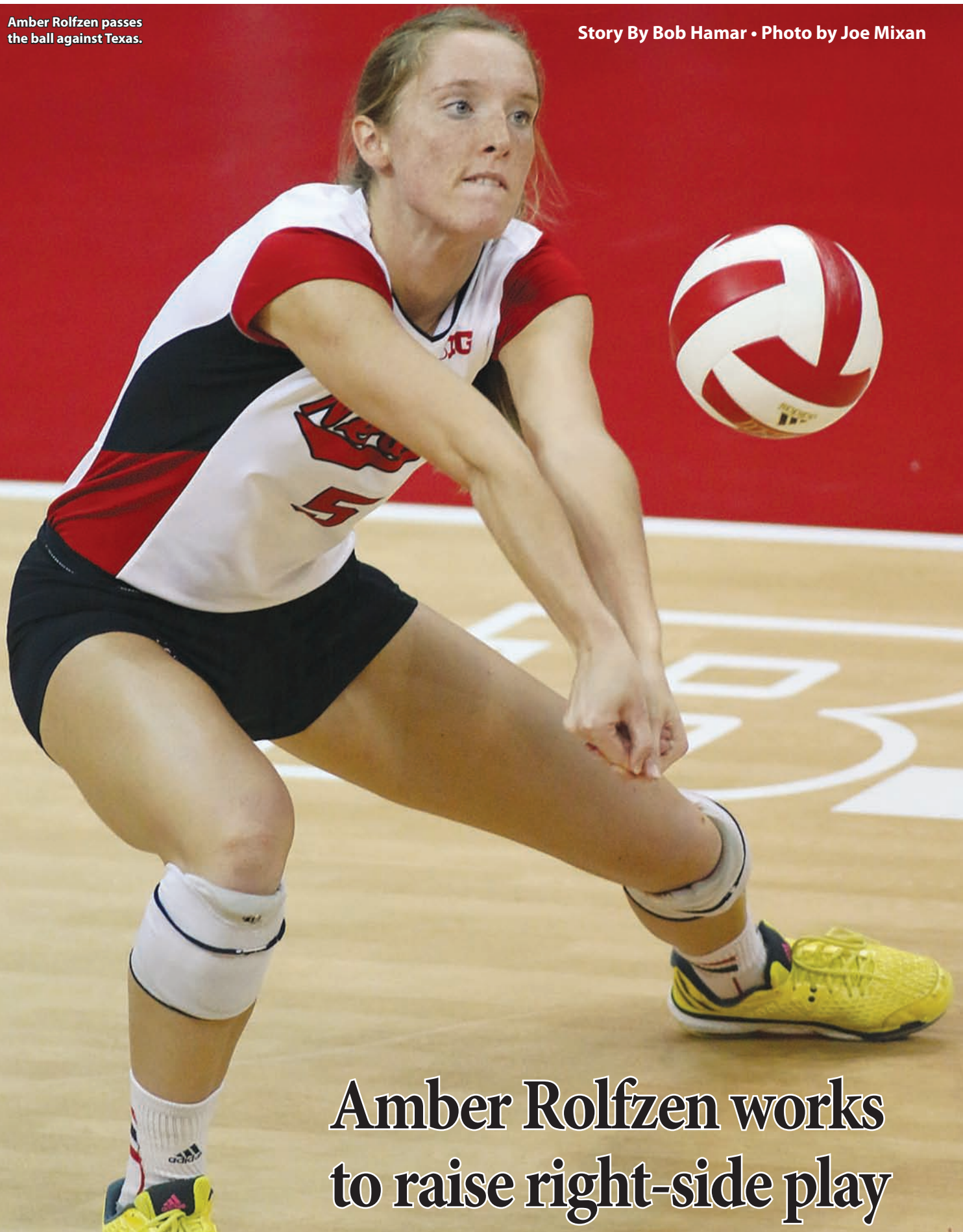
10 Did you ever consider going anywhere else to play soccer?

JO: Well, I committed my freshman year of high school, so I didn't really do much looking around. I went on a couple other visits, and I couldn't really see myself there, so I had the opportunity to look at them, but literally the minute I came to visit Nebraska - and my parents told me that we weren't going there to commit - just everything kind of bred success, so I committed on the visit.

~As interviewed by Huskers Illustrated's Lanny Holstein

Amber Rolfzen passes
the ball against Texas.

Story By Bob Hamar • Photo by Joe Mixan



**Amber Rolfzen works
to raise right-side play**

AMBER ROLFZEN ACCOMPLISHED A LOT AS A PREP HIGH SCHOOL PLAYER AT PAPILLION-LA VISTA SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL. ROLFZEN WAS A FINALIST FOR THE NEBRASKA GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD ALL FOUR SEASONS, AND WON IT TWICE. SHE EARNED FIRST TEAM AVCA UNDER ARMOUR ALL-AMERICAN HONORS AS A SENIOR IN 2012 AND WAS RATED THE EIGHTH-BEST PLAYER IN THE COUNTRY BY PREPVOLLEYBALL.COM.

She also shared PrepVolleyball.com's national freshman and sophomore players of the year honors with someone she knows very well.

Her twin sister Kadie.

Now Amber Rolfzen is a sophomore right side hitter for the Huskers, and finds herself in a battle for a starting job.

Amber had 244 kills last year while averaging 2.14 per set. This year she was averaging 2.0 kills per set while hitting .185 as the Huskers headed into Big Ten Conference play.

"(I'll) just continue to work on different aspects every day in practice, and challenge myself and have coach challenge me in different things in practice," Amber Rolfzen said. "I don't really know as to why right side in particular isn't doing that well this year. We haven't really adjusted anything. We continue to make little adjustments every week to see if we can improve."

Amber Rolfzen played on the left side throughout her volleyball career until she joined the Husker program in 2013. The Huskers had senior Kelsey Robinson on the left along with Kadie Rolfzen, so Amber was switched over to the right.

Amber said it does take some adjusting to switch from the left to the right.

"The biggest adjustment I think is even though you have the same amount of court on both sides, you feel like you don't have as much court on the right side," she said. "So you have to work in different shots than you would on the outside."

"I think blocking comes easier on the right than the left. Otherwise, it's about the same."

But, "It's just easier for a right-handed person on the left side of the court," Amber said.

Nebraska coach John Cook tried freshman middle blocker Kira Larson at right side during fall practice, but ultimately went back to the middle. He also said last week he was going to practice junior Alicia Ostrander on the right side some.

Cook would like to see Amber Rolfzen raise her level of play on the right side. Ideally he would like to have a 6-foot-5 lefty on the right side, like former Husker All-American Sarah Pavan.

But the Huskers don't have that right now.

"Ideally I'd like to have Amber be a big-time player," he said. "We designed a system to take advantage of when we don't have a lefty, and Amber can pass so we can move her around a lot, but she's not killing the ball."

Amber was, compared to some, late getting into the sport of volleyball as a youngster.

2014 Nebraska Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 23, 2014	Red-White Game	Devaney Center	White 3-1
AVCA Showcase			
Aug. 29, 2014	Florida State	Devaney Center	L, 3-1 (0-1)
Aug. 31, 2014	Stanford	Devaney Center	L, 3-0 (0-2)
Flyer-Raider Invite			
Sept. 5, 2014	Dayton	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (1-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	CSU-Bakersfield	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-1 (2-2)
Sept. 6, 2014	Eastern Kentucky	Dayton, Ohio	W, 3-0 (3-2)
Ameritas Players	Challenge		
Sept. 12, 2014	Denver	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (4-2)
Sept. 13, 2014	Colgate	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (5-2)
Sept. 17, 2014	Creighton	Devaney Center	W, 3-1 (6-2)
Sept. 20, 2014	Texas	Devaney Center	L, 3-2 (6-3)
Sept. 24, 2014	Iowa *	Devaney Center	W, 3-0 (7-3)
Sept. 27, 2014	Iowa *	Iowa City, Iowa	W, 3-0 (8-3)
Oct. 3, 2014	Penn State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 4, 2014	Ohio State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 10, 2014	Michigan State *	East Lansing, MI	TBA
Oct. 11, 2014	Michigan *	Ann Arbor, MI	TBA
Oct. 15, 2014	Northwestern *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 18, 2014	Illinois *	Devaney Center	TBA
Oct. 22, 2014	Minnesota *	Minneapolis	TBA
Oct. 26, 2014	Wisconsin *	Madison, Wis.	TBA
Oct. 31, 2014	Rutgers *	Piscataway, N.J.	TBA
Nov. 1, 2014	Maryland *	College Park, Md.	TBA
Nov. 5, 2014	Purdue *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 8, 2014	Indiana *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 12, 2014	Michigan State *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 16, 2014	Maryland *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 19, 2014	Indiana *	Bloomington, Ind.	TBA
Nov. 22, 2014	Michigan *	Devaney Center	TBA
Nov. 26, 2014	Illinois *	Champaign, Ill.	TBA
Nov. 29, 2014	Penn State *	State College	TBA
NCAA Tourney			
Dec. 4-6, 2014	TBD	College Sites	TBA
Dec. 13-14, 2014	TBD	Regional Sites	TBA
Dec. 18, 2014	TBD - Semifinals	Oklahoma City, OK	TBA
Dec. 20, 2014	Championship	Oklahoma City	6:35 p.m.

"I guess I didn't really start volleyball until like sixth grade," Amber said. "I was kind of a late starter so I didn't really follow any volleyball teams."

That changed after she watched the Huskers win the 2006 national title at what was then called the Qwest Center in Omaha. She didn't see that championship in person. She was watching on television, just like so many others in the Husker state. That got her interested in the sport in a hurry, and it didn't take Cook long to get interested in the 6-3 twins at Papillion-La Vista South, who helped the Monarchs to three straight Class A state titles.

NEBRASKA VOLLEYBALL NOTEBOOK

Compiled by Bob Hamar • Photos by Joe Mixan

STRANGE SCHEDULE

Nebraska opened the Big Ten Conference season last week with a home-and-home series against Iowa. The Huskers hosted the Hawkeyes on Wednesday, Sept. 24, and then played in Iowa City on the following Saturday. John Cook recalled one similar situation years ago.

"There was a time back in 1988 when I was an assistant here we played Texas back-to-back on a Friday and Saturday," Cook said. "That's the only time I can remember."

Cook said the back-to-back matches was something the Big Ten Conference came up with to try and make the schedule work out. Every team will face the same sort of back-to-back challenge at some point in the season.

For instance, Wisconsin will play Minnesota back-to-back in the middle of October while defending national champion Penn State will play Ohio State back-to-back later in that month.

"We were just trying to get the schedule to work out," Cook said. "I have a feeling it's going to change next year. This is the way the Big Ten came up with their model to get all the parameters we wanted. They say we technically don't have travel partners, but we do have travel partners."

COOK STILL EXPERIMENTING

Cook said early in the season he would experiment with the lineup during the non-conference portion of the schedule, but hoped to have it all ironed out by the Big Ten season. That really didn't happen. He was still experimenting heading into the Iowa series, talking about Alicia Ostrander playing some on the right side and giving freshman Olivia Boender playing time on the left side.

"We have some players who can play," Cook said. "I'm going to keep going with who's hot and who's playing well. It drives me nuts as a coach. Some of our better teams we had like seven players and we just go. I think we have some players. We have to get some more production on the right and we have to be lower error on the left between Kelsey (Fien) and Alicia."

WONG-ORANTES PLAYING WELL

Libero was one position Cook wasn't worried about. He said he saw a lot more confidence from sophomore Justine Wong-Orantes during the non-conference schedule.

"It's confidence in having played the posi-

tion for a year," Cook said. "Last year, she was a freshman away from home, trying to figure things out. It was a new position. With a year under her belt now, I think she's pretty good. She makes some great plays."

Cook said many things Wong-Orantes does won't be noticed by the casual fan or show up the boxscore.

"She's a really smart volleyball player," Cook said. "She has a really high volleyball IQ. She sees the game really well. The little plays she makes are pretty fantastic. She does a lot of great things that don't show up on stats."

Cook said the college game has changed a lot since the libero was added back in the early 2000s. He didn't even use it for the first couple of years before moving Dani Busboom from setter before the national championship season in 2006.

"Everybody has a good libero now," he said.

HUSKERS GIVE TEXAS A GOOD RUN

Cook didn't seem too disappointed after the Huskers lost to No. 2 Texas in their final non-conference match. The match went five sets, and Cook said the Huskers didn't make plays at critical times.

However, he did see a team that was learning to relax. He also saw sophomore Kadie Rolfzen out play Texas' Haley Eckerman.

"I think putting less pressure on us allows us to play better," he said. "Another thing is Kadie stepped up and she outplayed Eckerman. She stepped up and made plays when we needed them."

The Huskers may have played better on their trip to Japan this past summer than they did in the non-conference matches.

"I think they're learning how to compete together, incorporating our freshmen into there," Cook said. "We've been mixing up our lineup. Alicia is in. Kelsey is in. Our middles have been rotating. Now they're focused on supporting each other instead of worrying about one play."

Cook was especially pleased to see freshman Sydney Townsend serve seven-straight points in game four against the Longhorns.

"For a freshman to be able to hit that many serves in a row and get on a roll like that is really big," Cook said. "She made some digs. She made a couple really nice plays, but we haven't seen that from her every week. She has to show that in practice."



Alicia Ostrander makes a tip against Texas.

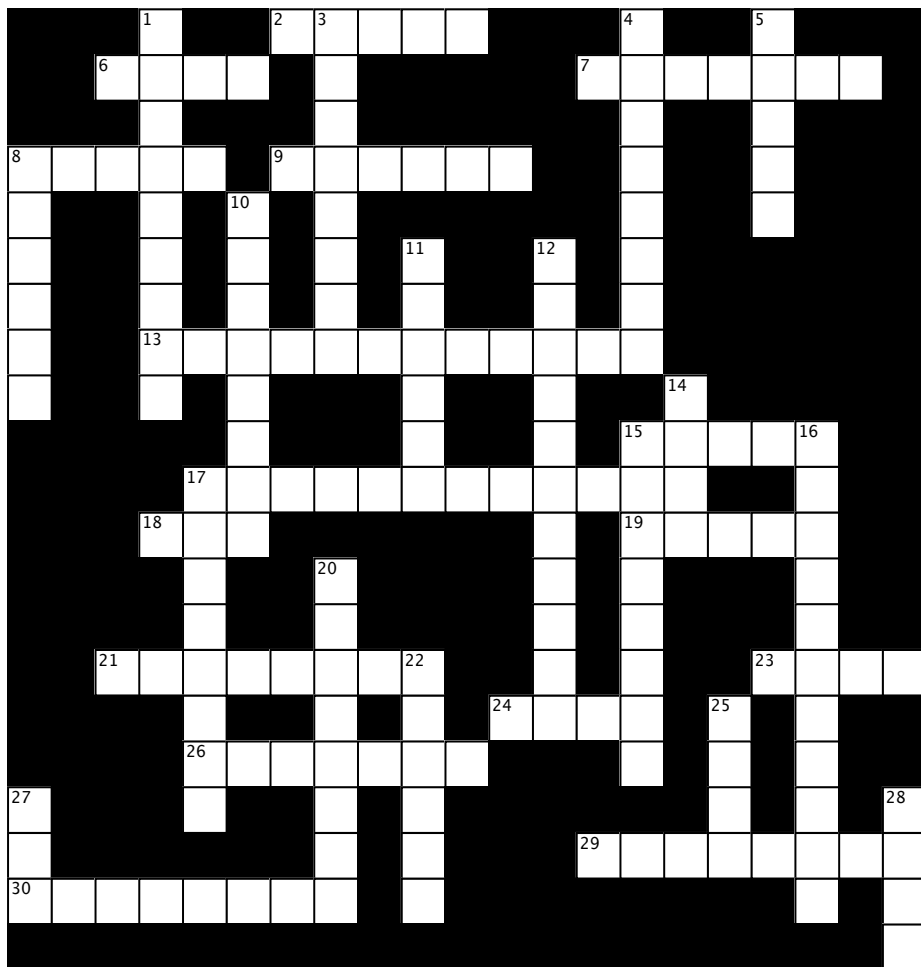


Meghan Haggerty celebrates a point against Texas.



Melanie Keil (21) reacts to a NU point against Texas.

OCTOBER 4 CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

2. Ex-Husker linebacker now with Tampa Bay Bucs
6. Intercepted pass in fourth quarter vs. Miami
7. Former safety, now graduate assistant
8. Michigan State school color
9. Nov. 1 opponent
13. Oct. 18 opponent
15. Wears No. 82 (offense)
17. City for Big Ten Championship game
18. Linebacker coach
19. Tommy Armstrong's home state
21. Linebacker whose father was former Husker
23. Former quarterback, now graduate assistant
24. Leading receiver vs. Miami
26. Randy Gregory's home state
29. Michigan State head coach
30. Wears No. 90 (defense)

DOWN

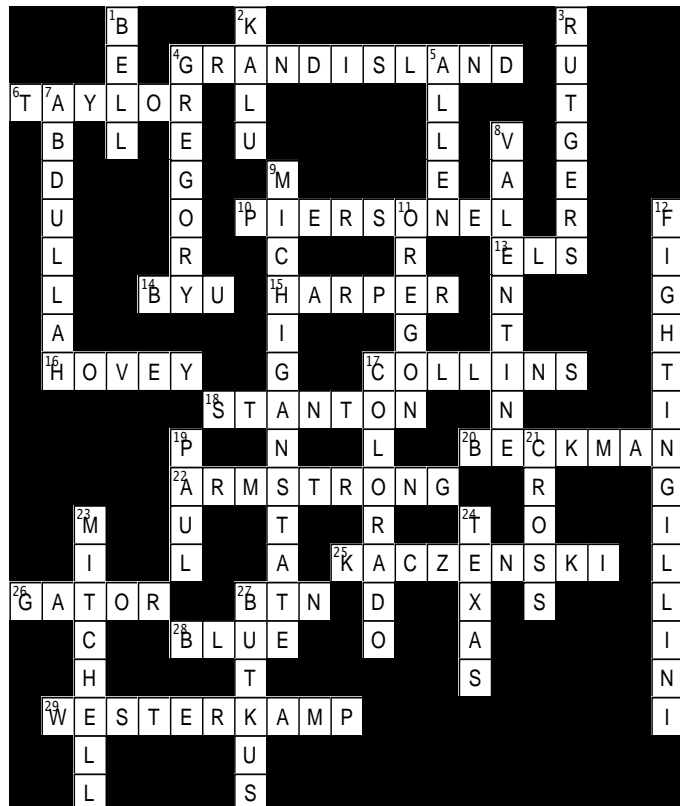
1. Wears No. 98 (defense)
3. NU's career all-purpose yards leader
4. NU's first Outland Trophy winner
5. 2015 non-conference opponent
8. NU's first Lombardi Award winner
10. Michigan State nickname
11. 2017 non-conference opponent
12. 2016 non-conference opponent
14. Michigan State's bowl game after 2013 season
15. Returned fumble for touchdown vs. Miami
16. Michigan State campus location
17. Jordan Westerkamp's home state
20. Offensive line coach
22. Leading tackler vs. Miami
25. NU's division in Big Ten Conference
27. Jake Cotton's younger brother and Husker teammate
28. Ex-Husker punter now with Baltimore Ravens

Prognostications of Joe Husker



Nebraska has had the Spartan's
number in recent years.
Let's hope we still got it.

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